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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification ⁵ : C12Q 1/70	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 92/02642 (43) International Publication Date: 20 February 1992 (20.02.92)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US91/05728 (22) International Filing Date: 12 August 1991 (12.08.91) (30) Priority data: 566,209 10 August 1990 (10.08.90) US (71) Applicant: CHIRON CORPORATION [US/US]; 4560 Horton Street, Emeryville, CA 94608 (US). (72) Inventors: HOUGHTON, Michael ; 53 Rosemead Court, Danville, CA 94526 (US). CHOO, Qui-Lim ; 5700 Fern Street, El Cerrito, CA 94530 (US). KUO, George ; 1370 Sixth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94112 (US). WEINER, Amy, J. ; 433 Greenbriar Court, Benicia, CA 94510 (US). HAN, Jang ; 3238 Del Mar, Lafayette, CA 94549 (US). URDEA, Michael, Steven ; 100 Bunce Meadow Road, Alamo, CA 94501 (US). IRVINE, Bruce, Duncan ; 3401 El Monte Drive, Concord, CA 94519 (US). KOLBERG, Janice, A. ; 179 Schooner Court, Richmond, CA 94804 (US).		(74) Agents: MURASHIGE, Kate, H. et al.; Irell & Manella, 545 Middlefield Road, Suite 200, Menlo Park, CA 94025 (US). (81) Designated States: AT (European patent), AU, BB, BE (European patent), BF (OAPI patent), BG, BJ (OAPI patent), BR, CA, CF (OAPI patent), CG (OAPI patent), CH (European patent), CI (OAPI patent), CM (OAPI patent), CS, DE (European patent), DK (European patent), ES (European patent), FI, FR (European patent), GA (OAPI patent), GB (European patent), GN (OAPI patent), GR (European patent), HU, IT (European patent), JP, KP, KR, LK, LU (European patent), MC, MG, ML (OAPI patent), MN, MR (OAPI patent), MW, NL (European patent), NO, PL, RO, SD, SE (European patent), SN (OAPI patent), SU, TD (OAPI patent), TG (OAPI patent). + Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i>
(54) Title: NANBV DIAGNOSTICS: POLYNUCLEOTIDES USEFUL FOR SCREENING FOR HEPATITIS C VIRUS (57) Abstract A new virus, Hepatitis C virus (HCV), which has proven to be the major etiologic agent of blood-borne NANBH, was discovered by Applicant. Reagents for isolating, amplifying, and detecting HCV polynucleotides are provided. These reagents are oligomers comprised of polynucleotide sequences which are capable of forming hybrid structures with HCV target polynucleotide sequences.		

+ DESIGNATIONS OF "SU"

It is not yet known for which States of the former Soviet Union any designation of the Soviet Union has effect.

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NANBV DIAGNOSTICS: POLYNUCLEOTIDES USEFUL
FOR SCREENING FOR HEPATITIS C VIRUS

10 Technical Field

 The invention relates to materials and methodologies for managing the spread of non-A, non-B hepatitis virus (NANBV) infection. More specifically, it relates to an etiologic agent of non-A, non-B hepatitis (NANBH), hepatitis C virus (HCV), and to polynucleotides and analogs thereof, which are useful in
15 assays for the detection of HCV in biological samples.

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U.S. Patent No. 4,491,632
U.S. Patent No. 4,493,890
U.S. Patent No. 4,683,202
U.S. Patent No. 4,458,066
20 U.S. Patent No. 4,868,105

Background Art

Non-A, Non-B hepatitis (NANBH) is a transmissible disease or family of
diseases that are believed to be viral-induced, and that are distinguishable from
25 other forms of viral-associated liver diseases, including that caused by the known
hepatitis viruses, i.e., hepatitis A virus (HAV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), and delta
hepatitis virus (HDV), as well as the hepatitis induced by cytomegalovirus
(CMV) or Epstein-Barr virus (EBV). NANBH was first identified in transfused
individuals. Transmission from man to chimpanzee and serial passage in

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chimpanzees provided evidence that NANBH is due to a transmissible infectious agent or agents.

Epidemiologic evidence is suggestive that there may be three types of NANBH: the water-borne epidemic type; the blood or needle associated type; and the sporadically occurring (community acquired) type. However, the number of agents which may be the causative of NANBH are unknown.

There have been a number of candidate NANBV. See, for example the reviews by Prince (1983), Feinstone and Hoofnagle (1984), and Overby (1985, 1986, 1987) and the article by Iwarson (1987). However, there is no proof that any of these candidates represent the etiological agent of NANBH.

The demand for sensitive, specific methods for screening and identifying carriers of NANBV and NANBV contaminated blood or blood products is significant. Post-transfusion hepatitis (PTH) occurs in approximately 10% of transfused patients, and NANBH accounts for up to 90% of these cases. The major problem in this disease is the frequent progression to chronic liver damage (25-55%).

Patient care as well as the prevention of transmission of NANBH by blood and blood products or by close personal contact require reliable screening, diagnostic and prognostic tools to detect nucleic acids, antigens and antibodies related to NANBV.

Methods for detecting specific polynucleotides by hybridization assays are known in the art. See, for example, Matthews and Kricka (1988), Analytical Biochemistry 169:1; Landegren et al. (1988), Science 242:229; and Mittlin (1989), Clinical chem. 35:1819. U.S. Patent No. 4,868,105, issued Sept. 9, 1989, and in EPO Pub. No. 225807 (published June 16, 1987).

Disclosure of the Invention

Methods for isolating and/or detecting specific polynucleotides by hybridization could not be used for screening for HCV until Applicants' discovery of

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HCV. The Applicants' invention provides materials and methods for obtaining the viral genomic sequences, which are provided in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436, and infra.

5 An aspect of the invention is a process for detecting an HCV sequence in an analyte strand suspected of containing an HCV polynucleotide, wherein the HCV polynucleotide comprises a selected target region, said process comprising:

(a) providing an oligomer(s) capable of hybridizing to an HCV sequence in an analyte polynucleotide strand, wherein the oligomer comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of oligonucleotides complementary to the following regions of the HCV genome (as shown in Figure 1): 16-45, 49-78, 82-111, 115-144, 148-177, 211-240, 242-271, 275-304, 332-361, 365-394, 398-427, and 457-486;

15 (b) incubating the analyte strand with the oligomer(s) of (a) which allow specific hybrid duplexes to form between the targeting sequence and the target sequence; and

(d) detecting hybrids formed between target region, if any, and the oligomer(s).

20 Another aspect of the invention is a process for detecting an HCV sequence in an analyte strand suspected of containing an HCV polynucleotide, wherein the HCV polynucleotide comprises a selected target region, said process comprising:

25 (a) providing an oligomer(s) capable of hybridizing to an HCV sequence in an analyte polynucleotide strand, wherein the oligomer is comprised of a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of oligonucleotides complementary to the following regions of the HCV genome (as shown in Figure 1): 16-45, 49-78, 82-111, 115-144, 148-177, 211-240, 242-271, 275-304, 332-361, 365-394, 398-427, and 457-486;

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(b) incubating the analyte strand with the oligomer(s) of (a) which allow specific hybrid duplexes to form between the targeting sequence and the target sequence; and

5 (d) detecting hybrids formed between target region, if any, and the oligomer(s) with another oligomer(s), wherein the other oligomer(s) comprise of a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of oligonucleotides complementary to the following regions of the HCV genome (as shown in Figure 1): 16-45, 49-78, 82-111, 115-144, 148-177, 211-240, 242-271, 275-304, 332-361, 365-394, 398-427, and 457-486.

10 Yet, another aspect of the invention is a method for preparing blood free of HCV comprising:

(a) providing analyte nucleic acids from a sample of blood suspected of containing an HCV target sequence;

15 (b) providing an oligomer(s) capable of hybridizing to the HCV sequence in an analyte polynucleotide strand, if any, wherein the oligomer is comprised of a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of oligonucleotides complementary to the following regions of the HCV genome (as shown in Figure 1): 16-45, 49-78, 82-111, 115-144, 148-177, 211-240, 242-271, 275-304, 332-361, 365-394, 398-427, and 457-486;

20 (c) reacting (a) with (b) under conditions which allow the formation of a polynucleotide duplex between the targeting sequence and the target sequence, if any;

(d) detecting a duplex formed in (c), if any; and

(e) saving the blood from which complexes were not detected in (d).

25 A further aspect of the invention is a method for preparing blood free of HCV comprising:

(a) providing analyte nucleic acids from a sample of blood suspected of containing an HCV target sequence;

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(b) providing an oligomer(s) capable of hybridizing to the HCV sequence in an analyte polynucleotide strand, if any, wherein the oligomer is comprised of a polynucleotide sequence;

(c) reacting (a) with (b) under conditions which allow the formation of a polynucleotide duplex between the targeting sequence and the target sequence, if any;

(d) detecting a duplex formed in (c), if any, with another oligomer(s), wherein the other oligomer(s) comprise a polynucleotide sequence; and

(e) saving the blood from which complexes were not detected in (d).

10

Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 shows the the compiled HCV cDNA sequence derived from the clone described herein and from the compiled HCV cDNA sequence presented in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436. The clones from which the sequence was derived are 5'-clone32, b114a, 18g, ag30a, CA205a, CA290a, CA216a, pi14a, CA167b, CA156e, CA84a, CA59a, K9-1 (also called k9-1), 26j, 13i, 12f, 14i, 11b, 7f, 7e, 8h, 33c, 40b, 37b, 35, 36, 81, 32, 33b, 25c, 14c, 8f, 33f, 33g, 39c, 35f, 19g, 26g, 15e, b5a, 16jh, 6k, and p131jh. In the figure the three horizontal dashes above the sequence indicate the position of the putative initiator methionine codon. Also shown in the figure is the amino acid sequence of the putative polypeptide encoded in the HCV cDNA. Heterogeneities in cloned DNAs of HCV1 are indicated by the amino acids indicated above the putatively encoded sequence of the large ORF; the parentheses indicate that the heterogeneity was detected at or near to the 5'- or 3'- end of the HCV cDNA in the clone.

Fig. 2 shows the DNA consensus sequences for five different HCV isolates from different geographic locations (Japan and U.S.), where the amino acids encoded by the large ORF of HCV1 are shown above the DNA sequences.

Fig. 3 shows the sequences of labeling probes for the detection of HCV RNA in biological samples used in Example III.

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Fig. 4 shows the alignment of the probes in Fig. 3 with HCV1, according to the numbering in Fig. 1.

Modes for Carrying Out the Invention

5 The term "hepatitis C virus" (HCV) has been reserved by workers in the field for an heretofore unknown etiologic agent of NANBH. The prototype isolate of HCV has been identified in U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 122,714 (See also EPO Publication No. 318,216). The term HCV also includes new isolates of the same viral species. As an extension of this terminology, the disease
10 caused by HCV, formerly called blood-borne NANB hepatitis (BB-NANBH), is called hepatitis C. The terms NANBH and hepatitis C may be used interchangeably herein.

 HCV is a viral species of which pathogenic strains cause BB-NANBH. There may also be attenuated strains or defective interfering particles derived
15 therefrom. As shown *infra*, the HCV genome is comprised of RNA. It is known that RNA containing viruses have relatively high rates of spontaneous mutation, i.e., reportedly on the order of 10^{-3} to 10^{-4} per incorporated nucleotide (Fields & Knipe (1986)). Therefore, since heterogeneity and fluidity of genotype are
20 inherent in RNA viruses, there are multiple strains/isolates, which may be virulent or avirulent, within the HCV species. The compositions and methods described herein, enable the propagation, identification, detection, and isolation of the various HCV strains or isolates.

 Several different strains/isolates of HCV have been identified (See PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436). One such strain or isolate, which is a prototype, is
25 named CDC/HCV1 (also called HCV1). Information from one strain or isolate, such as a partial genomic sequence, is sufficient to allow those skilled in the art using standard techniques to isolate new strains/isolates and to identify whether such new strains/isolates are HCV. For example, several different strains/isolates are described *infra*. These strains, which were obtained from a number of

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human sera (and from different geographical areas), were isolated utilizing the information from the genomic sequence of HCV1.

Using the techniques described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436, the genomic structure and the nucleotide sequence of HCV1 genomic RNA has been deduced. The genome appears to be single-stranded RNA containing ~10,000 nucleotides. The genome is positive-stranded, and possesses a continuous, translational open reading frame (ORF) that encodes a polyprotein of about 3,000 amino acids. In the ORF, the structural protein(s) appear to be encoded in approximately the first quarter of the N-terminus region, with the majority of the polyprotein responsible for non-structural proteins. When compared with all known viral sequences, small but significant co-linear homologies are observed with the non-structural proteins of the flavivirus family, and with the pestiviruses (which are now also considered to be part of the Flavivirus family).

The flavivirus polyprotein contains, from the amino terminus to the carboxy terminus, the nucleocapsid protein (C), the matrix protein (M), the envelope protein (E), and the non-structural proteins (NS) 1, 2 (a+b), 3, 4 (a+b), and 5. Based upon the putative amino acids encoded in the nucleotide sequence of HCV1, a small domain at the extreme N-terminus of the HCV polyprotein appears similar both in size and high content of basic residues to the nucleocapsid protein (C) found at the N-terminus of flaviviral polyproteins. The non-structural proteins 2,3,4, and 5 (NS2-5) of HCV and of yellow fever virus (YFV) appear to have counterparts of similar size and hydropathicity, although there is divergence of the amino acid sequences. However, the region of HCV which would correspond to the regions of YFV polyprotein which contains the M, E, and NS1 protein not only differs in sequence, but also appears to be quite different both in size and hydropathicity. Thus, while certain domains of the HCV genome may be referred to herein as, for example, NS1, or NS2, it should be borne in mind that these designations are speculative; there may be considerable

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differences between the HCV family and flaviviruses that have yet to be appreciated.

Different strains, isolates or subtypes of HCV are expected to contain variations at the amino acid and nucleic acids compared with HCV1. Many isolates
5 are expected to show much (i.e., more than about 40%) homology in the total amino acid sequence compared with HCV1. However, it may also be found that there are other less homologous HCV isolates. These would be defined as HCV according to various criteria such as, for example, an ORF of approximately 9,000 nucleotides to approximately 12,000 nucleotides, encoding a polyprotein
10 similar in size to that of HCV1, an encoded polyprotein of similar hydrophobic and/or antigenic character to that of HCV1, and the presence of co-linear peptide sequences that are conserved with HCV1. In addition, it is believed that the genome would be a positive-stranded RNA.

All HCV isolates encode at least one epitope which is immunologically
15 identifiable (i.e., immunologically cross-reactive) with an epitope encoded in the HCV cDNAs described herein. Preferably the epitope is contained in an amino acid sequence described herein and is unique to HCV when compared to previously known pathogens. The uniqueness of the epitope may be determined by its immunological reactivity with anti-HCV antibodies and lack of immunological
20 reactivity with antibodies to known pathogens.

HCV strains and isolates are evolutionarily related. Therefore, it is expected that the overall homology of the genomes at the nucleotide level may be about 40% or greater, probably will be about 50% or greater, probably about 60% or greater, and even more probably about 80% or greater; and in addition
25 that there will be corresponding contiguous sequences of at least about 13 nucleotides. It should be noted that there are variable and hypervariable regions within the HCV genome; therefore, the homology in these regions is expected to be significantly less than that in the overall genome. The correspondence between the putative HCV strain genomic sequence and, for example, the CDC/

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HCV1 cDNA sequence can be determined by techniques known in the art. For example, they can be determined by a direct comparison of the sequence information of the polynucleotide from the putative HCV, and the HCV cDNA sequence(s) described herein. They also can be determined by hybridization of the polynucleotides under conditions which form stable duplexes between homologous regions (for example, those which would be used prior to S_1 digestion), followed by digestion with single stranded specific nuclease(s), followed by size determination of the digested fragments.

Because of the evolutionary relationship of the strains or isolates of HCV, putative HCV strains or isolates are identifiable by their homology at the polypeptide level. Generally, HCV strains or isolates are expected to be at least 40% homologous, more than about 50% homologous, probably more than about 70% homologous, and even more probably more than about 80% homologous, and some may even be more than about 90% homologous at the polypeptide level. The techniques for determining amino acid sequence homology are known in the art. For example, the amino acid sequence may be determined directly and compared to the sequences provided herein. Alternatively the nucleotide sequence of the genomic material of the putative HCV may be determined (usually via a cDNA intermediate), the putative amino acid sequence encoded therein can be determined, and the corresponding regions compared.

As used herein, a polynucleotide "derived from" a designated sequence refers to a polynucleotide sequence which is comprised of a sequence of approximately at least about 6 nucleotides, preferably at least about 8 nucleotides, more preferably at least about 10-12 nucleotides, and even more preferably at least about 15-20 nucleotides corresponding to a region of the designated nucleotide sequence. "Corresponding" means homologous to or complementary to the designated sequence. Preferably, the sequence of the region from which the polynucleotide is derived is homologous to or complementary to a sequence which is unique to an HCV genome. More preferably, the derived sequence is homol-

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ogous or complementary to a sequence that is unique to all or to a majority of HCV isolates. Whether or not a sequence is unique to the HCV genome can be determined by techniques known to those of skill in the art. For example, the sequence can be compared to sequences in databanks, e.g., Genbank, to determine whether it is present in the uninfected host or other organisms. The sequence can also be compared to the known sequences of other viral agents, including those which are known to induce hepatitis, e.g., HAV, HBV, and HDV, and to members of the Flaviviridae. The correspondence or non-correspondence of the derived sequence to other sequences can also be determined by hybridization under the appropriate stringency conditions. Hybridization techniques for determining the complementarity of nucleic acid sequences are known in the art, and are discussed *infra*. See also, for example, Maniatis et al. (1982). In addition, mismatches of duplex polynucleotides formed by hybridization can be determined by known techniques, including for example, digestion with a nuclease such as S1 that specifically digests single-stranded areas in duplex polynucleotides. Regions from which typical DNA sequences may be "derived" include but are not limited to, for example, regions encoding specific epitopes, as well as non-transcribed and/or non-translated regions.

The derived polynucleotide is not necessarily physically derived from the nucleotide sequence shown, but may be generated in any manner, including for example, chemical synthesis or DNA replication or reverse transcription or transcription. In addition, combinations of regions corresponding to that of the designated sequence may be modified in ways known in the art to be consistent with an intended use.

The term "recombinant polynucleotide" as used herein intends a polynucleotide of genomic, cDNA, semisynthetic, or synthetic origin which, by virtue of its origin or manipulation: (1) is not associated with all or a portion of a polynucleotide with which it is associated in nature, (2) is linked to a polynucleotide other than that to which it is linked in nature, or (3) does not occur in nature.

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The term "polynucleotide" as used herein refers to a polymeric form of nucleotides of any length, either ribonucleotides or deoxyribonucleotides. This term refers only to the primary structure of the molecule. Thus, this term includes double- and single-stranded DNA and RNA. It also includes known types of modifications, for example, labels which are known in the art, methylation, "caps", substitution of one or more of the naturally occurring nucleotides with an analog, internucleotide modifications such as, for example, those with uncharged linkages (e.g., methyl phosphonates, phosphotriesters, phosphoamidates, carbamates, etc.) and with charged linkages (e.g., phosphorothioates, phosphorodithioates, etc.), those containing pendant moieties, such as, for example proteins (including, e.g., nucleases, toxins, antibodies, signal peptides, poly-L-lysine, etc.), those with intercalators (e.g., acridine, psoralen, etc.), those containing chelators (e.g., metals, radioactive metals, boron, oxidative metals, etc.), those containing alkylators, those with modified linkages (e.g., alpha anomeric nucleic acids, etc.), as well as unmodified forms of the polynucleotide.

As used herein, the "sense strand" of a nucleic acid contains the sequence that has sequence homology to that of mRNA. The "anti-sense strand" contains a sequence which is complementary to that of the "sense strand".

As used herein, a "positive stranded genome" of a virus is a genomic polynucleotide, whether RNA or DNA, which encodes at least one viral polypeptide. Examples of positive stranded RNA viruses include Togaviridae, Coronaviridae, Retroviridae, Picornaviridae, and Caliciviridae. Included also, are the Flaviviridae, which were formerly classified as Togaviridae. These viruses are typically single stranded. See Fields & Knipe (1986).

The term "primer" as used herein refers to an oligomer which is capable of acting as a point of initiation of synthesis of a polynucleotide strand when placed under appropriate conditions. The primer will be completely or substantially complementary to a region of the polynucleotide strand to be copied. Thus, under conditions conducive to hybridization, the primer will anneal to the

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complementary region of the analyte strand. Upon addition of suitable reactants, (e.g., a polymerase, nucleotide triphosphates, and the like), the primer is extended by the polymerizing agent to form a copy of the analyte strand. The primer may be single-stranded, or alternatively may be partially or fully double-stranded.

The terms "analyte polynucleotide" and "analyte strand" refer to a single- or double-stranded nucleic acid molecule which is suspected of containing a target sequence, and which may be present in a biological sample.

As used herein, the term "oligomer" refers to primers and to probes. The term oligomer does not connote the size of the molecule. However, typically oligomers are no greater than 1000 nucleotides, more typically are no greater than 500 nucleotides, even more typically are no greater than 250 nucleotides; they may be no greater than 100 nucleotides, and may be no greater than 75 nucleotides, and also may be no greater than 50 nucleotides in length.

As used herein, the term "probe" refers to a structure comprising a polynucleotide which forms a hybrid structure with a target sequence, due to complementarity of at least one sequence in the probe with a sequence in the target region. The polynucleotide regions of probes may be composed of DNA, and/or RNA, and/or synthetic nucleotide analogs. Included within probes are "capture probes" and "label probes". Preferably the probe does not contain a sequence complementary to sequence(s) used to prime the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

As used herein, the term "target region" refers to a region of the nucleic acid which is to be amplified and/or detected. The term "target sequence" refers to a sequence with which a probe or primer will form a stable hybrid under desired conditions.

The term "capture probe" as used herein refers to a polynucleotide comprised of a single-stranded polynucleotide coupled to a binding partner. The single-stranded polynucleotide comprises a targeting polynucleotide sequence,

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which is complementary to a target sequence in a target region to be detected in the analyte polynucleotide. This complementary region is of sufficient length and complementarity to the target sequence to afford a duplex of stability which is sufficient to immobilize the analyte polynucleotide to a solid surface (via the binding partners). The binding partner is specific for a second binding partner; the second binding partner can be bound to the surface of a solid support, or may be linked indirectly via other structures or binding partners to a solid support.

The term "targeting polynucleotide sequence" as used herein, refers to a polynucleotide sequence which comprises nucleotides which are complementary to a target nucleotide sequence; the sequence is of sufficient length and complementarity with the target sequence to form a duplex which has sufficient stability for the purpose intended.

The term "binding partner" as used herein refers to a molecule capable of binding a ligand molecule with high specificity, as for example an antigen and an antibody specific therefor. In general, the specific binding partners must bind with sufficient affinity to immobilize the analyte copy/complementary strand duplex (in the case of capture probes) under the isolation conditions. Specific binding partners are known in the art, and include, for example, biotin and avidin or streptavidin, IgG and protein A, the numerous known receptor-ligand couples, and complementary polynucleotide strands. In the case of complementary polynucleotide binding partners, the partners are normally at least about 15 bases in length, and may be at least 40 bases in length; in addition, they have a content of Gs and Cs of at least about 40% and as much as about 60%. The polynucleotides may be composed of DNA, RNA, or synthetic nucleotide analogs.

The term "coupled" as used herein refers to attachment by covalent bonds or by strong non-covalent interactions (e.g., hydrophobic interactions, hydrogen bonds, etc.). Covalent bonds may be, for example, ester, ether, phosphoester,

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amide, peptide, imide, carbon-sulfur bonds, carbon-phosphorus bonds, and the like.

5 The term "support" refers to any solid or semi-solid surface to which a desired binding partner may be anchored. Suitable supports include glass, plastic, metal, polymer gels, and the like, and may take the form of beads, wells, dipsticks, membranes, and the like.

 The term "label" as used herein refers to any atom or moiety which can be used to provide a detectable (preferably quantifiable) signal, and which can be attached to a polynucleotide or polypeptide.

10 As used herein, the term "label probe" refers to an oligomer which comprises targeting polynucleotide sequence, which is complementary to a target sequence to be detected in the analyte polynucleotide. This complementary region is of sufficient length and complementarity to the target sequence to afford a duplex comprised of the "label probe" and the "target sequence" to be
15 detected by the label. The oligomer is coupled to a label either directly, or indirectly via a set of ligand molecules with high specificity for each other. Sets of ligand molecules with high specificity are described supra, and also includes multimers.

20 The term "multimer", as used herein, refers to linear or branched polymers of the same repeating single-stranded polynucleotide unit or different single-stranded polynucleotide units. At least one of the units has a sequence, length, and composition that permits it to hybridize specifically to a first single-stranded nucleotide sequence of interest, typically an analyte or an oligomer (e.g., a label probe) bound to an analyte. In order to achieve such
25 specificity and stability, this unit will normally be at least about 15 nucleotides in length, typically no more than about 50 nucleotides in length, and preferably about 30 nucleotides in length; moreover, the content of Gs and Cs will normally be at least about 40%, and at most about 60%. In addition to such unit(s), the multimer includes a multiplicity of units that are capable of hybridizing specific-

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ally and stably to a second single-stranded nucleotide of interest, typically a labeled polynucleotide or another multimer. These units are generally about the same size and composition as the multimers discussed above. When a multimer is designed to be hybridized to another multimer, the first and second oligonucleotide units are heterogeneous (different), and do not hybridize with each other under the conditions of the selected assay. Thus, multimers may be label probes, or may be ligands which couple the label to the probe.

As used herein, the term "viral RNA", which includes HCV RNA, refers to RNA from the viral genome, fragments thereof, transcripts thereof, and mutant sequences derived therefrom.

As used herein, a "biological sample" refers to a sample of tissue or fluid isolated from an individual, including but not limited to, for example, plasma, serum, spinal fluid, lymph fluid, the external sections of the skin, respiratory, intestinal, and genitourinary tracts, tears, saliva, milk, blood cells, tumors, organs, and also samples of in vitro cell culture constituents (including but not limited to conditioned medium resulting from the growth of cells in cell culture medium, putatively virally infected cells, recombinant cells, and cell components).

Description of the Invention

The practice of the present invention will employ, unless otherwise indicated, conventional techniques of chemistry, molecular biology, microbiology, recombinant DNA, and immunology, which are within the skill of the art. Such techniques are explained fully in the literature. See e.g., Maniatis, Fitch & Sambrook, "Molecular Cloning; A Laboratory Manual (1982); DNA Cloning, Volumes I and II (D.N Glover ed. 1985); Oligonucleotide Synthesis (M.J. Gait ed, 1984); Nucleic Acid Hybridization (B.D. Hames & S.J. Higgins eds. 1984); the series, Methods in Enzymology (Academic Press, Inc.), particularly Vol. 154 and Vol. 155 (Wu and Grossman, eds.). All patents, patent applications, and

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publications mentioned herein, both supra and infra, are hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The use of materials and processes of the present invention are made possible by the identification of HCV as the etiologic agent of BB-NANBV, and by
5 the provision of a family of nucleotide sequences isolated from cDNA libraries which contain HCV cDNA sequences. These cDNA libraries were derived from nucleic acid sequences present in the plasma of an HCV-infected chimpanzee. The construction of one of these libraries, the "c" library (ATCC No. J394), is described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436.

10 Utilizing the above-described HCV cDNA sequences, as well as that described herein, oligomers can be constructed which are useful as reagents for detecting viral polynucleotides in biological samples. For example, from the sequences it is possible to synthesize DNA oligomers of about 8-10 nucleotides, or larger, which are useful as hybridization probes to detect the presence of
15 HCV RNA in, for example, donated blood, blood fractions, sera of subjects suspected of harboring the virus, or cell culture systems in which the virus is replicating. In addition, the novel oligomers described herein enable further characterization of the HCV genome. Polynucleotide probes and primers derived from these sequences may be used to amplify sequences present in cDNA libraries,
20 and/or to screen cDNA libraries for additional overlapping cDNA sequences, which, in turn, may be used to obtain more overlapping sequences. As indicated in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436, the genome of HCV appears to be RNA comprising primarily a large open reading frame (ORF) which encodes a large polypeptide.

25 In addition to the above, the information provided infra allows the identification of additional HCV strains or isolates. The isolation and characterization of the additional HCV strains or isolates may be accomplished by, for example, isolating the nucleic acids from body components which contain viral particles and/or viral RNA, creating cDNA libraries using oligomers based on the HCV1

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sequence, for screening the libraries for clones containing HCV cDNA sequences described infra, and comparing the HCV cDNAs from the new isolates with the cDNAs described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436 and infra. Strains or isolates which fit within the parameters of HCV, as described in the Definitions section, supra, are readily identifiable. Other methods for identifying HCV strains will be obvious to those of skill in the art, based upon the information provided herein.

Isolation of the HCV cDNA Sequences

10 The oligomers of the invention contain regions which form hybrid duplex structures with targeted sequences in HCV polynucleotides. The HCV polynucleotide hybridizing regions of the oligomers may be ascertained from the HCV cDNA sequence(s) provided herein, and described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436. A composite of HCV cDNA from HCV1, a prototypic HCV, is
15 shown in Fig. 1. The composite sequence is based upon sequence information derived from a number of HCV cDNA clones, which were isolated from a number of HCV cDNA libraries, including the "c" library present in lambda gt11 (λ gt11) (ATCC No. 40394), and from human serum. The HCV cDNA clones were isolated by methods described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436. Briefly, the
20 majority of clones which were isolated contained sequences from the HCV cDNA "c" library which was constructed using pooled serum from a chimpanzee with chronic HCV infection and containing a high titer of the virus, i.e., at least 10^6 chimp infectious doses/ml (CID/ml). The pooled serum was used to isolate viral particles; nucleic acids isolated from these particles were used as the template in the construction of cDNA libraries to the viral genome. The initial
25 clone, 5-1-1, was obtained by screening the "c" library with serum from infected individuals. After the isolation of the initial clone, the remainder of the sequence was obtained by screening with synthetic polynucleotide probes, the

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sequences of which were derived from the 5'-region and the 3'-region of the known HCV cDNA sequence(s).

The description of the methods to retrieve the cDNA sequences is mostly of historical interest. The resultant sequences (and their complements) are provided herein, and the sequences, or any portion thereof, could be prepared using synthetic methods, or by a combination of synthetic methods with retrieval of partial sequences using methods similar to those described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436.

10 Oligomer Probes and Primers

Using as a basis the HCV genome (as illustrated in Fig. 1), and/or preferably conserved regions of the HCV genome, oligomers of approximately 8 nucleotides or more can be prepared which hybridize with the positive strand(s) of HCV RNA or its complement, as well as to HCV cDNAs. These oligomers can serve as probes for the detection (including isolation and/or labeling) of polynucleotides which contain HCV nucleotide sequences, and/or as primers for the transcription and/or replication of targeted HCV sequences. The oligomers contain a targeting polynucleotide sequence, which is comprised of nucleotides which are complementary to a target HCV nucleotide sequence; the sequence is of sufficient length and complementarity with the HCV sequence to form a duplex which has sufficient stability for the purpose intended. For example, if the purpose is the isolation, via immobilization, of an analyte containing a target HCV sequence, the oligomers would contain a polynucleotide region which is of sufficient length and complementarity to the targeted HCV sequence to afford sufficient duplex stability to immobilize the analyte on a solid surface, via its binding to the oligomers, under the isolation conditions. For example, also, if the oligomers are to serve as primers for the transcription and/or replication of target HCV sequences in an analyte polynucleotide, the oligomers would contain a polynucleotide region of sufficient length and complementarity to the targeted

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HCV sequence to allow the polymerizing agent to continue replication from the primers which are in stable duplex form with the target sequence, under the polymerizing conditions. For example, also, if the oligomers are to be used as label probes, or are to bind to multimers, the targeting polynucleotide region would be of sufficient length and complementarity to form stable hybrid duplex structures with the label probes and/or multimers to allow detection of the duplex. The oligomers may contain a minimum of about 4 contiguous nucleotides which are complementary to targeted HCV sequence; usually the oligomers will contain a minimum of about 8 contiguous nucleotides which are complementary to the targeted HCV sequence, and preferably will contain a minimum of about 14 contiguous nucleotides which are complementary to the targeted HCV sequence.

Suitable HCV nucleotide targeting sequences may be comprised of nucleotides which are complementary nucleotides selected from HCV cDNA nucleotides, which are shown in Fig. 1.

The oligomer, however, need not consist only of the sequence which is complementary to the targeted HCV sequence. It may contain in addition, nucleotide sequences or other moieties which are suitable for the purposes for which the oligomers are used. For example, if the oligomers are used as primers for the amplification of HCV sequences via PCR, they may contain sequences which, when in duplex, form restriction enzyme sites which facilitate the cloning of the amplified sequences. For example, also, if the oligomers are to be used as "capture probes" in hybridization assays (described *infra*), they would contain in addition a binding partner which is coupled to the oligomer containing the nucleotide sequence which is complementary to the targeted HCV sequence. Other types of moieties or sequences which are useful of which the oligomers may be comprised or coupled to, are those which are known in the art to be suitable for a variety of purposes, including the labeling of nucleotide probes.

The preparation of the oligomers is by means known in the art, including, for example, by methods which include excision, transcription, or chemical syn-

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thesis. The target sequences and/or regions of the genome which are selected to which the targeting polynucleotides of the oligomers are complementary depend upon the purpose. For example, if the goal is to screen for the presence of HCV in biological samples (e.g. blood), the preferred oligomers would be
5 used as probes and/or primers, and would hybridize to conserved regions of the HCV genome. Some of the conserved regions of the HCV genome to which the oligomers may bind are described herein, for example, the regions which include nucleotide numbers from about the 5-terminus to about 200, or from about 4000 to about 5000, or from about 8000 to about 9040 as shown in Fig. 1, or preferably
10 nucleotides about -318 to about 174, about 4056 to about 4448, and about 4378 to about 4902. Particularly preferred primers and probes are derived from about nucleotides -313 to about -173, and from about nucleotide 1 to about nucleotide 540, as shown in Fig. 1.

Other regions of the genome which are conserved are readily ascertainable by comparison of the nucleotide sequences of various isolates of HCV,
15 including the prototype HCV, HCV1. Methods for conducting comparisons between genotypes to determine conserved and nonconserved regions are known in the art, and examples of these methods are disclosed in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436.

20 In the basic nucleic acid hybridization assay, single-stranded analyte nucleic acid (either DNA or RNA) is hybridized to a nucleic acid probe, and resulting duplexes are detected. The probes for HCV polynucleotides (natural or derived) are a length which allows the detection of unique viral sequences by hybridization. While 6-8 nucleotides may be a workable length, sequences of 10-12
25 nucleotides are preferred, and about 20 nucleotides or more appears optimal. Preferably, these sequences will derive from regions which lack heterogeneity. These probes can be prepared using routine methods, including automated oligonucleotide synthetic methods. Among useful probes, for example, are those derived from the newly isolated clones disclosed herein, as well as the various oligo-

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mers useful in probing cDNA libraries, set forth below. A complement to any unique portion of the HCV genome will be satisfactory. For use as probes, complete complementarity is desirable, though it may be unnecessary as the length of the fragment is increased.

5 For use of such probes as agents to detect the presence of HCV polynucleotides (for example in screening for contaminated blood), the biological sample to be analyzed, such as blood or serum, may be treated, if desired, to extract the nucleic acids contained therein. The resulting nucleic acid from the sample may be subjected to gel electrophoresis or other size separation techniques; alternatively, the nucleic acid sample may be dot blotted without size separation. In
10 order to form hybrid duplexes with the targeting sequence of the probe, the targeted region of the analyte nucleic acid must be in single stranded form. Where the sequence is naturally present in single stranded form, denaturation will not be required. However, where the sequence is present in double stranded form,
15 the sequence will be denatured. Denaturation can be carried out by various techniques known in the art. Subsequent to denaturation, the analyte nucleic acid and probe are incubated under conditions which promote stable hybrid formation of the target sequence in the probe with the putative targeted sequence in the analyte, and the resulting duplexes containing the probe(s) are detected.

20 Detection of the resulting duplex, if any, is usually accomplished by the use of labeled probes; alternatively, the probe may be unlabeled, but may be detectable by specific binding with a ligand which is labeled, either directly or indirectly. Suitable labels, and methods for labeling probes and ligands are known in the art, and include, for example, radioactive labels which may be
25 incorporated by known methods (e.g., nick translation or kinasing), biotin, fluorescent groups, chemiluminescent groups (e.g., dioxetanes, particularly triggered dioxetanes), enzymes, antibodies, and the like.

 The region of the probes which are used to bind to the analyte can be made completely complementary to the HCV genome. Therefore, usually high

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stringency conditions are desirable in order to prevent false positives. However, conditions of high stringency should only be used if the probes are complementary to regions of the viral genome which lack heterogeneity. The stringency of hybridization is determined by a number of factors during hybridization and during the washing procedure, including temperature, ionic strength, length of time, and concentration of formamide. These factors are outlined in, for example, T. Maniatis (1982).

Variations of this basic scheme which are known in the art, including those which facilitate separation of the duplexes to be detected from extraneous materials and/or which amplify the signal from the labeled moiety, may also be used. A number of these variations are reviewed in, for example: Matthews and Kricka (1988), *Anal. Biochem.* 169:1; Landegren et al. (1988), *Science* 242:229; and Mittlin (1989), *Clin. Chem.* 35:1819. Probes suitable for detecting HCV in these assays are comprised of sequences which hybridize with target HCV polynucleotide sequences to form duplexes with the analyte strand, wherein the duplexes are of sufficient stability for detection in the specified assay system.

A suitable variation is, for example, one which is described in U.S. Patent No. 4,868,105, issued Sept. 9, 1989, and in E.P.O. Pub. No. 225807 (published June 16, 1987). These publications describe a solution phase nucleic acid hybridization assay in which the analyte nucleic acid is hybridized to a labeling probe set and to a capturing probe set. The probe-analyte complex is coupled by hybridization with a solid-supported capture probe that is complementary to the capture probe set. This permits the analyte nucleic acid to be removed from solution as a solid phase complex. Having the analyte in the form of a solid phase complex facilitates subsequent separation steps in the assay. The labeling probe set is complementary to a labeled probe that is bound through hybridization to the solid phase/analyte complex.

Generally, it is expected that the HCV genome sequences will be present in serum of infected individuals at relatively low levels, i.e., at approximately

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10²-10³ chimp infectious doses (CID) per ml. This level may require that amplification techniques be used in hybridization assays. Such techniques are known in the art. For example, the Enzo Biochemical Corporation "Bio-Bridge" system uses terminal deoxynucleotide transferase to add unmodified 3'-poly-dT-tails to

5 a DNA probe. The poly dT-tailed probe is hybridized to the target nucleotide sequence, and then to a biotin-modified poly-A. PCT Pub. No. WO84/03520 and EPO Pub. No. 124221 describe a DNA hybridization assay in which: (1) analyte is annealed to a single-stranded DNA probe that is complementary to an enzyme-labeled oligonucleotide; and (2) the resulting tailed duplex is hybridized

10 to an enzyme-labeled oligonucleotide. EPO Pub. No. 204510 describes a DNA hybridization assay in which analyte DNA is contacted with a probe that has a tail, such as a poly-dT tail, an amplifier strand that has a sequence that hybridizes to the tail of the probe, such as a poly-A sequence, and which is capable of binding a plurality of labeled strands. A type of hybridization assay which is described in EPO Pub. No. 317077 (published May 24, 1989), which should detect

15 sequences at the level of approximately 10⁶/ml, utilizes nucleic acid multimers which bind to single-stranded analyte nucleic acid, and which also bind to a multiplicity of single-stranded labeled oligonucleotides. A particularly desirable technique may involve amplification of the target HCV sequences in sera approximately 10,000 fold (i.e., to approximately 10⁶ sequences/ml), as part of the

20 hybridization system. The amplification may be accomplished, for example, by the polymerase chain reactions (PCR) technique described by Saiki et al. (1986), by Mullis, U.S. Patent No. 4,683,195, and by Mullis et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,683,202. Amplification may be prior to, or preferably subsequent to purification of the HCV target sequence. For example, amplification may be utilized in

25 conjunction with the assay methods described in U.S. Patent No. 4,868,105, or if even further amplification is desired, in conjunction with the hybridization system described in EPO Pub. No. 317077.

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Preferred methods for detecting HCV sequences in an analyte polynucleotide strand are based upon the hybridization detection methods described in U.S. Patent No. 4,868,105 and in EPO Pub. No. 317077. These methods are solution-phase sandwich hybridization assays which utilize both capture and label probes which hybridize to target sequences in an analyte nucleic acid. In the use of these assays to screen biological samples for HCV, the probes used would bind to conserved regions of the HCV genome. The capture and label probes may be interspersed in their binding to the target sequence. Alternatively, in a preferred mode the capture and label probes are in sets, and the probes of one set do not intersperse with the probes of another set. In the latter mode, preferably the set(s) of multiple capture probes hybridize to the most conserved regions of the genome, while the set(s) of multiple label probes may hybridize to regions which exhibit small amounts of divergence. For example, using the prototype HCV1 cDNA sequence shown in Fig. 1, probes could be used which hybridize to sequences in the region of nucleotides from about -318 to about 174, and/or nucleotides in the region of about 4378 to about 4902, and/or nucleotides in the region of from about 4056 to about 4448. The preferred probes would hybridize to sequences in the 5'-region of the HCV genome, since, as shown infra, this region appears to be highly conserved. Thus, preferred probes may hybridize to, for example, nucleotides from about -318 to about 174 as shown in Fig. 1. Probes could be used which hybridize to either the positive strand in conserved regions, and/or its complement, depending upon the purpose, for example, to detect viral genomic sequences, or to detect HCV cDNA sequences resulting from PCR amplification, or to detect replicative intermediates in the positive HCV RNA strand.

Detection of HCV RNA and Polynucleotides Derived Therefrom Using an HCV/cPCR Method

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A particularly useful method for detecting HCV RNA or polynucleotides derived from HCV RNA is the HCV/cPCR method, which is a subject of the herein application, and which utilizes the polymerase chain reaction technique (PCR) which is described by Saiki et al. (1986), by Mullis in U.S. Pat. No. 4,683,195, and by Mullis et al. in U.S. Patent No. 4,683,202. The HCV/cPCR method utilizes primers and probes derived from the information provided herein concerning the nature of the HCV genome.

Generally, in the PCR technique, short oligonucleotide primers are prepared which match opposite ends of a desired sequence. The sequence between the primers need not be known. A sample of polynucleotide is extracted and denatured, preferably by heat, and hybridized with oligonucleotide primers which are present in molar excess. Polymerization is catalyzed by a template- and primer-dependent polymerase in the presence of deoxynucleotide triphosphates or nucleotide analogs (dNTPs). This results in two "long products" which contain the respective primers at their 5'-termini, covalently linked to the newly synthesized complements of the original strands. The replicated DNA is again denatured, hybridized with oligonucleotide primers, returned to polymerizing conditions, and a second cycle of replication is initiated. The second cycle provides the two original strands, the two long products from cycle 1, and two "short products" replicated from the long products. The short products contain sequences (sense or antisense) derived from the target sequence, flanked at the 5'- and 3'-termini with primer sequences. On each additional cycle, the number of short products is replicated exponentially. Thus, this process causes the amplification of a specific target sequence.

In the method, a sample is provided which is suspected of containing HCV RNA, or a fragment thereof. The sample is usually taken from an individual suspected of having NANBH; however, other sources of the sample are included, e.g., conditioned medium or cells from in vitro systems in which the

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virus has been replicated. The sample, however, must contain the target nucleic acid sequence(s).

5 The sample is then subjected to conditions which allow reverse transcription of HCV RNA into HCV cDNA. Conditions for reverse transcribing RNA are known to those of skill in the art, and are described in, for example, Maniatis
10 et al. (1982), and in Methods in Enzymology. A preferred method of reverse transcription utilizes reverse transcriptase from a variety of sources, including recombinant molecules, and isolated from, for example, a retrovirus, preferably from avian myeloblastosis virus (AMV), and suitable conditions for the transcription. The HCV cDNA product of reverse transcription is in a RNA:DNA hybrid, which results from the first round of reverse transcription; subsequently, DNA:DNA hybrids result from two or more rounds of transcription.

15 The HCV cDNA resulting from reverse transcription is then subjected to PCR to amplify the target sequence. In order to accomplish this, the HCV cDNA is denatured, and the separated strands are hybridized with primers which flank the target sequence.

20 Strand separation may be accomplished by any suitable denaturing method, including physical, chemical, or enzymatic means, which are known to those of skill in the art. A preferred method, which is physical, involves heating the nucleic acid until it is completely (>99%) denatured. Typical heat denaturation involves temperatures ranging from about 80°C to about 105°C, for times ranging from about 1 to 10 minutes.

25 After hybridization of the HCV cDNA with the primers, the target HCV sequences are replicated by a polymerizing means which utilizes a primer oligonucleotide to initiate the synthesis of the replicate chain. The primers are selected so that they are complementary to sequences of the HCV genome. Oligomeric primers which are complementary to regions of the sense and antisense strands of HCV cDNA can be designed from the HCV cDNA sequences from the composite cDNA sequence provided in Fig. 1.

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The primers are selected so that their relative positions along a duplex sequence are such that an extension product synthesized from one primer, when it is separated from its template (complement), serves as a template for the extension of the other primer to yield a replicate chain of defined length.

5 The primer is preferably single stranded for maximum efficiency in amplification, but may alternatively be double stranded. If double stranded, the primer is first treated to separate its strands before being used to prepare extension products. Preferably, the primer is an oligodeoxyribonucleotide. The primer must be sufficiently long to prime the synthesis of extension products in the presence of the agent for polymerization. The exact lengths of the primers will
10 depend on many factors, including temperature and source of the primer and use of the method. For example, depending on the complexity of the target sequence, the oligonucleotide primer typically contains about 15-45 nucleotides, although it may contain more or fewer nucleotides. Short primer molecules generally
15 require cooler temperatures to form sufficiently stable hybrid complexes with the template.

 The primers used herein are selected to be "substantially" complementary to the different strands of each specific sequence to be amplified. Therefore, the primers need not reflect the exact sequence of the template, but must be sufficiently
20 complementary to selectively hybridize with their respective strands. For example, a non-complementary nucleotide fragment may be attached to the 5'-end of the primer, with the remainder of the primer sequence being complementary to the strand. Alternatively, non-complementary bases or longer sequences can be interspersed into the primer, provided that the primer has sufficient
25 complementarity with the sequence of one of the strands to be amplified to hybridize therewith, and to thereby form a duplex structure which can be extended by the polymerizing means. The non-complementary nucleotide sequences of the primers may include restriction enzyme sites. Appending a

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restriction enzyme site to the end(s) of the target sequence would be particularly helpful for cloning of the target sequence.

It will be understood that "primer", as used herein, may refer to more than one primer, particularly in the case where there is some ambiguity in the information regarding the terminal sequence(s) of the target region to be amplified. Hence, a "primer" includes a collection of primer oligonucleotides containing sequences representing the possible variations in the sequence or includes nucleotides which allow a typical basepairing. One of the primer oligonucleotides in this collection will be homologous with the end of the target sequence. A specific case is where oligomer sets are utilized to prime the amplification of a potentially variant region of the HCV genome.

It is anticipated that there will be a variety of strains or isolates of HCV with sequences which deviate from HCV1, the prototype strain. Therefore in order to detect variant strains it is preferable to construct primers which hybridize to conserved regions of the HCV genome. The conserved regions may be determined by comparing the nucleotide or amino acid sequences of several HCV strains/isolates. There appear to be at least three regions of conserved amino acid in the HCV genome, described supra., from which primers may be derived. These regions are believed to be. The primers described infra, in the Examples, are derived from what are believed to be conserved regions of HCV, based upon sequence homology to that of the Flaviviruses.

The oligonucleotide primers may be prepared by any suitable method. Methods for preparing oligonucleotides of specific sequence are known in the art, and include, for example, cloning and restriction of appropriate sequences, and direct chemical synthesis. Chemical synthesis methods may include, for example, the phosphotriester method described by Narang et al. (1979), the phosphodiester method disclosed by Brown et al. (1979), the diethylphosphoramidate method disclosed in Beaucage et al. (1981), and the solid support method in U.S. Patent No. 4,458,066.

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The primers may be labeled, if desired, by incorporating means detectable by spectroscopic, photochemical, biochemical, immunochemical, or chemical means.

5 Template-dependent extension of the oligonucleotide primer(s) is catalyzed by a polymerizing agent in the presence of adequate amounts of the four deoxyribonucleotide triphosphates (dATP, dGTP, dCTP and dTTP) or analogs, in a reaction medium which is comprised of the appropriate salts, metal cations, and pH buffering system. Suitable polymerizing agents are enzymes known to catalyze primer- and template-dependent DNA synthesis. Known DNA polymerases include, for example, *E. coli* DNA polymerase I or its Klenow fragment, T₄ DNA polymerase, and Taq DNA polymerase. The reaction conditions for catalyzing DNA synthesis with these DNA polymerases are known in the art.

15 The products of the synthesis are duplex molecules consisting of the template strands and the primer extension strands, which include the target sequence. These products, in turn, serve as template for another round of replication. In the second round of replication, the primer extension strand of the first cycle is annealed with its complementary primer; synthesis yields a "short" product which is bounded on both the 5'- and the 3'-ends by primer sequences or their complements. Repeated cycles of denaturation, primer annealing, and extension result in the exponential accumulation of the target region defined by the primers. Sufficient cycles are run to achieve the desired amount of polynucleotide containing the target region of nucleic acid. The desired amount may vary, and is determined by the function which the product polynucleotide is to serve.

25 The PCR method can be performed in a number of temporal sequences. For example, it can be performed step-wise, where after each step new reagents are added, or in a fashion where all of the reagents are added simultaneously, or in a partial step-wise fashion, where fresh reagents are added after a given number of steps.

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In a preferred method, the PCR reaction is carried out as an automated process which utilizes a thermostable enzyme. In this process the reaction mixture is cycled through a denaturing region, a primer annealing region, and a reaction region. A machine may be employed which is specifically adapted for use with a thermostable enzyme, which utilizes temperature cycling without a liquid handling system, since the enzyme need not be added at every cycle. This type of machine is commercially available from Perkin Elmer Cetus Corp.

After amplification by PCR, the target polynucleotides are detected by hybridization with a probe polynucleotide which forms a stable hybrid with that of the target sequence under stringent to moderately stringent hybridization and wash conditions. If it is expected that the probes will be completely complementary (i.e., about 99% or greater) to the target sequence, stringent conditions will be used. If some mismatching is expected, for example if variant strains are expected with the result that the probe will not be completely complementary, the stringency of hybridization may be lessened. However, conditions are chosen which rule out nonspecific/adventitious binding. Conditions which affect hybridization, and which select against nonspecific binding are known in the art, and are described in, for example, Maniatis et al. (1982). Generally, lower salt concentration and higher temperature increase the stringency of binding. For example, it is usually considered that stringent conditions are incubation in solutions which contain approximately $0.1 \times \text{SSC}$, 0.1% SDS, at about 65°C incubation/wash temperature, and moderately stringent conditions are incubation in solutions which contain approximately $1-2 \times \text{SSC}$, 0.1% SDS and about 50°-65°C incubation/wash temperature. Low stringency conditions are $2 \times \text{SSC}$ and about 30°-50°C.

Probes for HCV target sequences may be derived from the HCV cDNA sequence shown in Fig. 1, or from new HCV isolates. The HCV probes may be of any suitable length which span the target region, but which exclude the primers, and which allow specific hybridization to the target region. If there is to be

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complete complementarity, i.e., if the strain contains a sequence identical to that of the probe, since the duplex will be relatively stable under even stringent conditions, the probes may be short, i.e., in the range of about 10-30 base pairs. If some degree of mismatch is expected with the probe, i.e., if it is suspected that the probe will hybridize to a variant region, the probe may be of greater length, since length seems to counterbalance some of the effect of the mismatch(es).

The probe nucleic acid having a sequence complementary to the target sequence may be synthesized using similar techniques described supra. for the synthesis of primer sequences. If desired, the probe may be labeled. Appropriate labels are described supra.

In some cases, it may be desirable to determine the length of the PCR product detected by the probe. This may be particularly true if it is suspected that variant HCV strains may contain deletions within the target region, or if one wishes to confirm the length of the PCR product. In such cases it is preferable to subject the products to size analysis as well as hybridization with the probe. Methods for determining the size of nucleic acids are known in the art, and include, for example, gel electrophoresis, sedimentation in gradients, and gel exclusion chromatography.

The presence of the target sequence in a biological sample is detected by determining whether a hybrid has been formed between the HCV polynucleotide probe and the nucleic acid subjected to the PCR amplification technique. Methods to detect hybrids formed between a probe and a nucleic acid sequence are known in the art. For example, for convenience, an unlabeled sample may be transferred to a solid matrix to which it binds, and the bound sample subjected to conditions which allow specific hybridization with a labeled probe; the solid matrix is then examined for the presence of the labeled probe. Alternatively, if the sample is labeled, the unlabeled probe is bound to the matrix, and after the exposure to the appropriate hybridization conditions, the matrix is

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examined for the presence of label. Other suitable hybridization assays are described supra.

Determination of Variant HCV Sequences Using PCR

5 In order to identify variant HCV strains, and thereby to design probes for those variants, the above described HCV/cPCR method is utilized to amplify variant regions of the HCV genome, so that the nucleotide sequences of these variant target regions can be determined. Generally, variant types of HCV might be expected to occur in different geographic locations than that in which the
10 HCV1 strain is predominant, for example, Japan, Africa, etc.; or in different vertebrate species which are also infected with the virus. Variant HCV may also arise during passage in tissue culture systems, or be the result of spontaneous or induced mutations.

 In order to amplify the variant target region, primers are designed to flank
15 the suspect region, and preferably are complementary to conserved regions. Primers to two regions of HCV which are probably conserved, based upon the Flavivirus model. These primers and probes may be designed utilizing the sequence information for the HCV1 strain provided in Fig. 1.

 Analysis of the nucleotide sequence of the target region(s) may be by
20 direct analysis of the PCR amplified products. A process for direct sequence analysis of PCR amplified products is described in Saiki et al. (1988).

 Alternatively, the amplified target sequence(s) may be cloned prior to sequence analysis. A method for the direct cloning and sequence analysis of enzymatically amplified genomic segments has been described by Scharf (1986).
25 In the method, the primers used in the PCR technique are modified near their 5'-ends to produce convenient restriction sites for cloning directly into, for example, an M13 sequencing vector. After amplification, the PCR products are cleaved with the appropriate restriction enzymes. The restriction fragments are ligated into the M13 vector, and transformed into, for example, a JM 103 host,

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plated out, and the resulting plaques are screened by hybridization with a labeled oligonucleotide probe. Other methods for cloning and sequence analysis are known in the art.

5 Universal Primers for Flaviviruses and for HCV

 Studies of the nature of the genome of the HCV, utilizing probes derived from the HCV cDNA, as well as sequence information contained within the HCV cDNA, are suggestive that HCV is a Flavi-like virus. These studies are described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436. A comparison of the HCV cDNA
10 sequence derived from the HCV cDNA clones with known sequences of a number of Flaviviruses show that HCV contains sequences which are homologous to conserved sequences in the Flaviviruses. These conserved sequences may allow the creation of primers which may be universal in their application for amplification of target regions of Flaviviruses, and for HCV. Identification of the species
15 is then accomplished utilizing a probe specific for the species. The genomes of a number of Flaviviruses are known in the art, and include, for example, Japanese Encephalitis Virus (Sumiyoshi et al. (1987)), Yellow Fever Virus (Rice et al. (1985)), Dengue Type 2 Virus (Hahn et al. (1988)), Dengue Type 4 Virus (Mackow (1987)), and West Nile Virus (Castle et al. (1986)). Identification of
20 HCV RNA is accomplished utilizing a probe specific for HCV, the sequence of which can be determined the HCV cDNA sequences provided herein.

 Alternatively, utilization of sets of probe(s) designed to account for codon degeneracy and therefore contain common sequences to the Flaviviruses and to HCV, as determined by a comparison of HCV amino acid sequences with the
25 known sequences of the Flaviviruses, allows a general detection system for these viruses.

Construction of Desired DNA Sequences

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Synthetic oligonucleotides may be prepared using an automated oligonucleotide synthesizer as described by Warner (1984). If desired the synthetic strands may be labeled with ^{32}P by treatment with polynucleotide kinase in the presence of ^{32}P -ATP, using standard conditions for the reaction.

5 DNA sequences, including those isolated from cDNA libraries, may be modified by known techniques, including, for example site directed mutagenesis, as described by Zoller (1982). Briefly, the DNA to be modified is packaged into phage as a single stranded sequence, and converted to a double stranded DNA with DNA polymerase using, as a primer, a synthetic oligonucleotide complementary to the portion of the DNA to be modified, and having the desired modification included in its own sequence. The resulting double stranded DNA is transformed into a phage supporting host bacterium. Cultures of the transformed bacteria, which contain replications of each strand of the phage, are plated in agar to obtain plaques. Theoretically, 50% of the new plaques contain 10 phage having the mutated sequence, and the remaining 50% have the original sequence. Replicates of the plaques are hybridized to labeled synthetic probe at temperatures and conditions which permit hybridization with the correct strand, but not with the unmodified sequence. The sequences which have been 15 identified by hybridization are recovered and cloned.

20

Kits for Screening for HCV Derived Polynucleotides

Oligomers which are probes and/or primers for amplification and/or screening of samples for HCV can be packaged into kits. Kits for screening for HCV sequences include the oligomeric probe DNAs. Kits for amplification of 25 HCV sequences may include the oligomeric primers used in the amplification. The kits usually contain the probes or primers in a premeasured or predetermined amount, as well as other suitably packaged reagents and materials, in separate suitable containers, needed for the particular hybridization and/or amplification protocol(s). For example, the kit may contain standards, buffers, supports,

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enzymes, substrates, label probes, binding partners, and/or instructions for conducting the test.

Examples

5 Described below are examples of the present invention which are provided only for illustrative purposes, and not to limit the scope of the present invention.

10 I. Detection of Positive and Negative Strand 5'-HCV RNA in Serum

The RNA in HCV27, isolated from serum, was analyzed for the presence of positive and negative strands using the PCR method. The PCR method was performed essentially as described above, except for the following.

15 The extracted HCV27 RNA was reverse transcribed into single-stranded cDNA using as a primer either Alex90 or JH52. Alex90, which is derived from nucleotides -312 to -283 of the HCV1 genome, and has the sequence:

5' ACC ATG AAT CAC TCC CCT GTG AGG AAC TAC 3'.

20 JH52 is derived from HCV nucleotides -93 to -117; the nucleotide numbers are indicated in parentheses below the sequences. In JH52 the underlined dinucleotide has been mutated to create the NotI site. The sequence of JH52 is as follows:

(Primer)	<u>Stuffer</u>	<u>NotI</u>	<u>HCV sequence</u>	
(JH52)	5' AGTCTT	GCGG <u>CC</u> GC	ACGCCCAAATC	3'
	(-93)		(-117)	

25 The sequence of Alex90 matches that in nucleotides -312 to -283 of the positive strand of HCV RNA, whereas JH52 matches that of nucleotides -117 to -93 of the negative strand. The resulting single-stranded HCV cDNAs were each separately amplified by PCR using Alex90 and JH52. Detection of the amplified products was accomplished by Southern blotting, using Alex89 as the probe.

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Alex89 matches nucleotide numbers -203 to -175 of HCV RNA. The sequence of Alex89 is:

5' CCA TAG TGG TCT GCG GAA CCG GTG AGT ACA 3'.

5 The analysis indicated that, by this method, the signals of the amplified products of both RNA strands were of equal intensity. These results are suggestive that HCV RNA in the 5'-region may exist as double-stranded RNA.

10 II. Detection of HCV RNA in Plasma Using HCV/cPCR Using Primers and Probes Derived from the 5'-Region of HCV RNA

Extraction of HCV RNA from plasma

15 Frozen plasma was thawed in a P3 hood. A 0.2 ml aliquot of digestion mix (100 millimolar (mM) Tris-HCl, 2 mM EDTA, 200 mM NaCl, 20 microgram/milliliter ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ml}$) MS2 RNA, 0.5% SDS, and 2 mg/ml Proteinase K, pH 8) was added to a 2 ml microfuge tube and prewarmed to 37°C. The plasma (0.2 ml) was then added, and the mixture allowed to incubate at 60°C for 1 hour. Next, phenol (0.4 ml) was added, and the mixture vortexed 3× for 30 seconds, allowing 30 seconds between each vortexing. The mixture was then centrifuged for 5 minutes, and the aqueous phase recovered. The organic phase was back-
20 extracted with 0.1 ml TES, and the pooled aqueous phases extracted 2× with 1 volume phenol/chloroform/IAA, then with 1 volume chloroform. To the extract was added 1 μl (2 μg) glycogen (Boehringer Mannheim Corp.) and 25 μl NaOAc (3 M, pH 5.4) and 1.25 ml cold EtOH, and the product frozen on dry ice and spun 10 min. The pellet was dissolved in 100 μl distilled water, and 5 μl NaOAc
25 (pH 5.4) added with 250 μl cold EtOH. The solution was frozen and spun again, and the resulting pellet dissolved in 10 μl dH₂O.

cDNA Synthesis

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In order to synthesize cDNA from the extracted RNA, initially 5 μ l of the dissolved RNA was incubated with 4 μ l water and 1 μ l (1 μ g or 166 pmols of 18-mer) of RT primer. The incubation was at 70°C for 3 minutes, followed by chilling on ice. The sequence of the RT primer was:

5' CCC AAC ACT ACT CGG CTA 3'.

After the initial incubation, the following were added to the incubation mixture: 10 μ l of 5 \times first strand buffer (250 mM Tris HCl, pH 8.3, 375 mM KCl, 15 mM MgCl₂, 50 mM dithiothreitol); 2.5 μ l deoxynucleoside triphosphates (10 mM each); 2.5 μ l reverse transcriptase (MMLV from BRL, 200 units per μ l), and distilled water to bring the volume to 50 μ l. The mixture was incubated at 37°C for 1 hour, heated at 90°C for 3 minutes, and chilled on ice.

PCR Amplification

PCR amplification of the HCV cDNA produced above was conducted using the control and test reagents listed below, in the Table. In the Table, "RNA" indicates a control sample in which the RNA was extracted from an individual which was uninfected with HCV; this sample was carried through the steps of cDNA synthesis and PCR amplification. "cDNA" indicates a control sample which was carried through the steps of cDNA synthesis and PCR amplification; however, in this case the aliquot of RNA was replaced with water during cDNA synthesis. "Template" was a control for the PCR reaction from which the template was omitted. "Sample" indicates the serum which was tested for the presence of HCV RNA.

25 Table

		RNA (μ l)	cDNA (μ l)	Template (μ l)	Sample (μ l)
30	water 10x buffer	to 100.0 10.0	100.0 to 10.0	100.0 to 10.0	100.0 10.0

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	dNTPs	16.0	16.0	16.0	16.0
	primer 1	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	primer 2	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
	template	2.5	2.5	-	2.5
5	Taq Pol	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5

Primer 1 and Primer 2 were 0.5 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$ and 0.42 $\mu\text{g}/\mu\text{l}$, respectively, and had the following sequences.

10

Primer 1: 5' ACC ATG AAT CAC TCC CCT GTG AGG AAC TAC 3'

Primer 2: 5' AGT CTT GCG GGG GCA CGC CCA AAT C 3'

15

These primers hybridize to a conserved region in the 5' end of the HCV genome. The samples contained 12.5 μl serum equivalents of HCV cDNA. The amplification cycle conditions used were as follows:

35 cycles: Melting - 94°C for 1.5 min
 20 Annealing - 60°C for 2 min
 Elongation - 72°C for 3 min
 Final Elongation: 72°C for 30 min
 Soak at 4°C until removed.

The amplified product was probed using a labeled DNA. The sequence of the probe was the following:

25

Probe: 5' TTT CTT GGA TCA ACC CGC TCA ATG CCT
 GGA 3'.

Over 200 HCV sera-positive samples were examined by the above procedure. Only results in which the controls were negative were considered. In this case, all sera-positive samples were also positive in the PCR assay.

30

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III. Probes Derived from the Putative "Core" Region of HCV RNA

An analysis of the nucleotide sequences of cDNAs to different HCV isolates shows that a high degree of sequence conservation exists in the region from about nucleotide 1 to about nucleotide 570, using the numbering system for nucleotides shown in Fig. 1. This region putatively encodes a "core" polypeptide of HCV. The consensus sequences for five different isolates from different geographic locations (Japan and the U.S.) is shown in Fig. 2, where HCV1 is the prototype HCV; the amino acids encoded in the large ORF of HCV1 are shown above the consensus nucleotide sequences. In the sequences shown in Fig. 2, HCV-JH is from a personal communication from Dr. Tetsu Miyamura (National Institute of Health of Japan), and JC-J1 and JC-J4 are from Mayumi et al. (1990). It may be seen in Fig. 2 that between the consensus sequences in the putative "core" region, there is at least 90% homology relative to the sequence in HCV1. In view of the high degree of homology in the region between nucleotides +1 to +571, probes to this area would be useful in screening for HCV positive biological specimens.

A set of label probes which may be used for the detection of HCV RNA from the region which putatively encodes an HCV "core" polypeptide are shown in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3, a "probe number" in the set includes a series of polynucleotides with heterogeneities indicated by the by the IUB Group Code listed in Fig. 3. The heterogeneities are to accomodate nucleotide sequence differences found in the consensus sequences of the different isolates. The regions of the HCV sequence to which the probes in the probe set of Fig. 3 are complementary are shown in Fig. 4, in which the nucleotide numbers correspond to the numbering in Fig. 1.

This probe set were used in an assay to detect HCV sequences. The assay format was described in PCT Pub. No. WO90/14436 in the Example section titled "Probes for Sandwich Hybridization for HCV."

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Industrial Applicability

The methods described herein, as well as the oligomers, both probes and primers, derived from HCV cDNA, and kits containing them, are useful for the accurate, relatively simple, and economic determination of the presence of HCV in biological samples, more particularly in blood which may be used for transfusions, and in individuals suspected of having HCV an infection. Moreover, these methods and oligomers may be useful for detecting an earlier stage of HCV infection than are immunological assays based upon the use of a recombinant HCV polypeptides. Also, an amplified polynucleotide hybridization assay detects HCV RNA in occasional samples which are anti-HCV antibody negative. Thus, the probes and primers described herein may be used amplified hybridization assays, in conjunction with an immunoassays based on HCV polypeptides to more completely identify infections due to HCV, and HCV-infected biological specimens, including blood.

The information provided herein allows the design of primers and/or probes which are derived from conserved regions of the HCV genome. The provision of these primers and probes makes available a general method which will detect variant HCV strains, and which will be of use in the screening of blood and blood products.

If the primers used in the method are derived from conserved regions of the HCV genome, the method should aid in the detection and/or identification of variant strains of HCV. This, in turn, should lead to the development of additional immunological reagents for the detection and diagnosis of HCV, as well as the development of additional polynucleotide reagents for detection and or treatment of HCV.

In addition, sets of primers and probes designed from the conserved amino acid sequences of Flaviviruses and HCV allow for a universal detection method for these infectious agents.

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The following listed materials are on deposit under the terms of the Budapest Treaty with the American Type Culture Collection (ATCC), 12301 Parklawn Dr., Rockville, Maryland 20852, and have been assigned the following Accession Numbers.

5

	<u>lambda-gt11</u>	<u>ATCC No.</u>	<u>Deposit Date</u>
	HCV cDNA library	40394	1 Dec. 1987
	clone 81	40388	17 Nov. 1987
	clone 91	40389	17 Nov. 1987
10	clone 1-2	40390	17 Nov. 1987
	clone 5-1-1	40391	18 Nov. 1987
	clone 12f	40514	10 Nov. 1988
	clone 35f	40511	10 Nov. 1988
	clone 15e	40513	10 Nov. 1988
15	clone K9-1	40512	10 Nov. 1988
	JSC 308	20879	5 May 1988
	pS356	67683	29 April 1988

In addition, the following deposits were made on 11 May 1989.

20

	<u>Strain</u>	<u>Linkers</u>	<u>ATCC No.</u>
	D1210 (Cf1/5-1-1)	EF	67967
	D1210 (Cf1/81)	EF	67968
	D1210 (Cf1/CA74a)	EF	67969
25	D1210 (Cf1/35f)	AB	67970
	D1210 (Cf1/279a)	EF	67971
	D1210 (Cf1/C36)	CD	67972
	D1210 (Cf1/13i)	AB	67973
	D1210 (Cf1/C33b)	EF	67974

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D1210 (Cf1/CA290a)	AB	67975
HB101 (AB24/C100 #3R)		67976

The following derivatives of strain D1210 were deposited on 3 May 1989.

5	<u>Strain Derivative</u>	<u>ATCC No.</u>
	pCF1CS/C8f	67956
	pCF1AB/C12f	67952
	pCF1EF/14c	67949
10	pCF1EF/15e	67954
	pCF1AB/C25c	67958
	pCF1EF/C33c	67953
	pCF1EF/C33f	67050
	pCF1CD/33g	67951
15	pCF1CD/C39c	67955
	pCF1EF/C40b	67957
	pCF1EF/CA167b	67959

The following strains were deposited on May 12, 1989.

20	<u>Strain</u>	<u>ATCC No.</u>
	Lambda gt11(C35)	40603
	Lambda gt10(beta-5a)	40602
	D1210 (C40b)	67980
25	D1210 (M16)	67981

The following biological materials were deposited on March 23, 1990.

<u>Material</u>	<u>ATCC No.</u>
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5'-clone32 (in pUC18S)

68276

5 Upon allowance and issuance of this application as a United States Patent, all
restriction on availability of these deposits will be irrevocably removed; and
access to the designated deposits will be available during pendency of the
above-named application to one determined by the Commissioner to be enti-
tled thereto under 37 CFR 1.14 and 35 USC 1.22. Moreover, the designated
deposits will be maintained for a period of thirty (30) years from the date of
deposit, or for five (5) years after the last request for the deposit; or for the
10 enforceable life of the U.S. patent, whichever is longer. The deposited mater-
ials mentioned herein are intended for convenience only, and are not required
to practice the present invention in view of the descriptions herein, and in
addition these materials are incorporated herein by reference.

15

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CLAIMS

1. A process for detecting an HCV sequence in an analyte strand suspected of containing an HCV polynucleotide, wherein the HCV polynucleotide comprises a selected target region, said process comprising:

5 (a) providing an oligomer capable of hybridizing to an HCV sequence in an analyte polynucleotide strand, wherein the oligomer comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of oligonucleotides complementary to the following regions of the HCV genome (as shown in Figure 1): 16-45, 49-78, 82-111, 115-144, 148-177, 211-240, 242-271, 275-304,
10 332-361, 365-394, 398-427, and 457-486;

(b) incubating the analyte strand with the oligomer of (a) which allow specific hybrid duplexes to form between the targeting sequence and the target sequence; and

15 (d) detecting hybrids formed between target region, if any, and the oligomer.

2. The process of claim 1 which further comprises:

(a) providing a set of oligomers, wherein the oligomers are primers for the polymerase chain reaction method and which flank the target
20 region; and

(b) amplifying the target region via a polymerase chain reaction method.

3. A kit for detecting an HCV target sequence in an analyte
25 strand, comprising the oligomers of claim 1 packaged in a suitable container.

4. A method for preparing blood free of HCV comprising:

(a) providing analyte nucleic acids from a sample of blood suspected of containing an HCV target sequence;

- 50 -

5 (b) providing an oligomer capable of hybridizing to the HCV sequence in an analyte polynucleotide strand, if any, wherein the oligomer comprises a polynucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of oligonucleotides complementary to the following regions of the HCV genome (as shown in Figure 1): 16-45, 49-78, 82-111, 115-144, 148-177, 211-240, 242-271, 275-304, 332-361, 365-394, 398-427, and 457-486;

(c) reacting (a) with (b) under conditions which allow the formation of a polynucleotide duplex between the targeting sequence and the target sequence, if any;

10 (d) detecting a duplex formed in (c), if any; and

(e) saving the blood from which complexes were not detected in (d).

15 5. A reagent useful for detection of HCV, wherein said reagent comprises:

an oligonucleotide having a sequence complementary to a region of the HCV genome selected from the group consisting of bases 16-45, 49-78, 82-111, 115-144, 148-177, 211-240, 242-271, 275-304, 332-361, 365-394, 398-427, and 457-486 (as shown in Figure 1).

20

6. The reagent of claim 5, wherein said oligonucleotide further comprises a detectable label.

1 / 14

-341 GCCAGCCCCCTGATGGGGGCGA
CGGTCGGGGGACTACCCCCGCT

-319 CACTCCACCATGAATCACTCCCCCTGTGAGGAAGTACTGTCTTCACGCAGAAAGCGTCTAG
GTGAGGTGGTACTTAGTGAGGGGACACTCCTTGATGACAGAAGTGGCTCTTTTCGCAGATC

-259 CCATGGCGTTAGTATGAGTGTGCTGCAGCCTCCAGGACCCCCCTCCCGGGAGAGCCATA
GGTACCGCAATCATACTACAGCACGTGCGAGGTCTCTGGGGGGGAGGGCCCTCTCGGTAT

-199 GTGGTCTGCGGAACCGGTGAGTACACCGGAATTGCCAGGACGACCGGGTCTTTTCTTGGGA
CACCAGACGCCCTTGGCCACTCATGTGGCCTTAACGGTCTGCTGGGCCAGGAAAGAACCT

-139 TCAACCCGCTCAATGCCTGGAGATTTGGGCGTGCCCCCGCAAGACTGCTAGCCGAGTAGT
AGTTGGGCGAGTTACGGACCTCTAAACCCGCACGGGGGCGTTCTGACGATCGGCTCATCA

- 79 GTTGGGTGCGGAAAGGCCTTGTGGTACTGCCTGATAGGGTGCTTGCGAGTGCCCCGGGAG
CAACCCAGCGCTTTCGGGAACACCATGACGGACTATCCACGAACGCTCACGGGGCCCTC

- 19 GTCTCGTAGACCGTGCACC
CAGAGCATCTGGCACGTGG

--- Arg Thr
MetSerThrAsnProLysProGlnLysLysAsnLysArgAsnThrAsnArgArgProGln
2 ATGAGCACGAATCCTAAACCTCAAAAAAAAAAACAACGTAACACCAACCGTCGCCCCACAG
TACTCGTGCTTAGGATTGGAGTTTTTTTTTTGTTTGCATTGTGGTTGGCAGCGGGTGTC

61 AspValLysPheProGlyGlyGlyGlnIleValGlyGlyValTyrLeuLeuProArgArg
GACGTCAGTTCCCGGGTGGCGGTCAGATCGTTGGTGGAGTTTACTTGTTGCCGCGCAGG
CTGCAGTTCAAGGGCCACCGCCAGTCTAGCAACCACCTCAATGAACAACGGCGCGTCC

121 GlyProArgLeuGlyValArgAlaThrArgLysThrSerGluArgSerGlnProArgGly
GGCCCTAGATTGGGTGTGCGCGCAGCAGAAAGACTTCCGAGCGGTCCGAACCTCGAGGT
CCGGGATCTAACCACACCGCGCGCTGCTCTTCTGAAGGCTCGCCAGCGTTGGAGCTCCA

181 ArgArgGlnProIleProLysAlaArgArgProGluGlyArgThrTrpAlaGlnProGly
AGACGTCAGCCTATCCCCAAGGCTCGTCGGCCCCGAGGSCAGGACCTGGGCTCAGCCCGGG
TCTGCAGTGGATAGGGGTTCCGAGCAGCGGGCTCCCGTCTGGACCCGAGTCGGGCCC

241 TyrProTrpProLeuTyrGlyAsnGluGlyCysGlyTrpAlaGlyTrpLeuLeuSerPro
TACCCTTGGCCCCCTCTATGGCAATGAGGGCTGCGGGTGGGCGGGATGGCTCTGTCTCC
ATGGGAACCGGGGAGATACCGTTACTCCGACGCCACCCGCCCTACCGAGGACAGAGGG

301 ArgGlySerArgProSerTrpGlyProThrAspProArgArgArgSerArgAsnLeuGly
CGTGGCTCTCGGCCTAGCTGGGGCCCCACAGACCCCGGCGTAGGTGCGCAATTTGGGT
GCACCGAGAGCCGATCGACCCCGGGGTGTCTGGGGGCGCATCCAGCGCGTTAAACCCA

361 LysValIleAspThrLeuThrCysGlyPheAlaAspLeuMetGlyTyrIleProLeuVal
AAGGTCATCGATACCTTACGTGCGGCTTCGCGGACCTCATGGGGTACATACCGCTCGTC
TTCCAGTAGCTATGGGAATGCACGCCGAAGCGGCTGGAGTACCCCATGTATGGCGAGCAG

421 GlyAlaProLeuGlyGlyAlaAlaArgAlaLeuAlaHisGlyValArgValLeuGluAsp
GGCGCCCTCTTGGAGGCGCTGCCAGGGCCCTGGCGCATGGCGTCCGGGTTCTGGAAGAC
CCGCGGGGAGAACCTCCGCGACGTTCCCGGACCGGTACCGCAGGCCAAGACCTTCTG

481 GlyValAsnTyrAlaThrGlyAsnLeuProGlyCysSerPheSerIlePheLeuLeuAla
GGCGTGAACATATGCAACAGGGAACCTTCTGGTTGCTCTTTCTCTATCTCTCTTCTGGCC
CCGCACTTGATACGTTGTCCCTTGGAAAGGACCAACGAGAAAGAGATAGAAGGAAGACCGG

541 LeuLeuSerCysLeuThrValProAlaSerAlaTyrGlnValArgAsnSerThrGlyLeu
CTGCTCTCTTGCTTGACTGTGCCCCGCTTCGGCTACCAAGTGGCAACTCCACGGGGCTT
GACGAGAGAACGAACGACACGGGCGAAGCCGATGGTTACGCGTTGAGGTGCCCCGAA

601 TyrHisValThrAsnAspCysProAsnSerSerIleValTyrGluAlaAlaAspAlaIle
TACCACGTCACCAATGATTGCCCTAACTCGAGTATTGTGTACGAGGCGGCGGATGCCATC
ATGGTGCAGTGGTTACTAACGGGATTGAGCTCATAACACATGCTCCGCCGGCTACGGTAG

661 LeuHisThrProGlyCysValProCysValArgGluGlyAsnAlaSerArgCysTrpVal
CTGCACACTCCGGGGTGGTCCCTTGCCTTCGTGAGGGCAACGCCTCGAGGTGTTGGGTG
GACGTGTGAGGCCCCACGCAGGGAACGCAAGCACTCCCGTTGCGGAGCTCCACAACCCAC

721 AlaMetThrProThrValAlaThrArgAspGlyLysLeuProAlaThrGlnLeuArgArg
GCGATGACCCCTACGGTGGCCACCAGGGATGGCAAACCTCCCGCGACGCAGCTTCGACGT
CGCTACTGGGGATGCCACCGGTGGTCCCTACCGTTGAGGGGCGCTGCGTGAAGCTGCA

781 HisIleAspLeuLeuValGlySerAlaThrLeuCysSerAlaLeuTyrValGlyAspLeu
CACATCGATCTGCTTGTGCGGGAGCGCCACCCTCTGTTCCGGCCCTCTACGTGGGGGACCTA
GTGTAGCTAGACGAACAGCCCTCGCGGTGGGAGACAAGCCGGGAGATGCACCCCTGGAT

841 CysGlySerValPheLeuValGlyGlnLeuPheThrPheSerProArgArgHisTrpThr
TGCGGGTCTGCTTCTTGTGCGGCAACTGTTACCTTCTCTCCAGGCGCCACTGGGACG
ACGCCCAGACAGAAAGAACAGCCGGTTGACAAAGTGAAGAGAGGGTCCGCGGTGACCTGC

901 ThrGlnGlyCysAsnCysSerIleTyrProGlyHisIleThrGlyHisArgMetAlaTrp
ACGCAAGGTGCAATTGCTCTATCTATCCCGCCATATAACGGGTACCCGATGGCATGG
TGGTTCCAAACGTTAACGAGATAGATAGGGCCGGTATATTGCCAGTGGCGTACCGTACC

Val

961 AspMetMetMetAsnTrpSerProThrThrAlaLeuValMetAlaGlnLeuLeuArgIle
GATATGATGATGAACCTGGTCCCTACGACGGCGTTGGTAATGGCTCAGCTGCTCCGGATC
CTATACTACTACTTGACCAGGGGATGCTGCCGCAACCATTACCGAGTCGACGAGGCCCTAG

1021 ProGlnAlaIleLeuAspMetIleAlaGlyAlaHisTrpGlyValLeuAlaGlyIleAla
CCACAAGCCATCTTGGACATGATCGCTGGTGCTCACTGGGGAGTCTTGGCGGGCATAGCG
GGTGTTCGGTAGAACCTGTACTAGCGACCAACGAGTGACCCCTCAGGACCGCCCGTATCGC

1081 TyrPheSerMetValGlyAsnTrpAlaLysValLeuValValLeuLeuPheAlaGly
TATTTCTCCATGGTGGGGAACCTGGGCGAAGGTCTGGTAGTCTGCTGCTATTTGCCGGC
ATAAAGAGGTACCACCCCTTGACCCGCTTCCAGGACCATCAGACGACGATAAACGGCCG

1141 ValAspAlaGluThrHisValThrGlyGlySerAlaGlyHisThrValSerGlyPheVal
GTCGACGCGGAAACCCACGTCACCGGGGGAAGTGCCGGCCACACTGTGTCTGGATTTGTT
CAGCTGCGCCTTTGGGTGCAGTGGCCCCCTTCACGGCCGGTGTGACACAGACCTAAACAA

1201 SerLeuLeuAlaProGlyAlaLysGlnAsnValGlnLeuIleAsnThrAsnGlySerTrp
AGCCTCCTCGCACCGAGCGCCAAGCAGAACGTCCAGCTGATCAACACCAACGGCAGTTGG
TCGGAGGAGCGTGTCCGCGGTTCTGCTTGCAGGTCGACTAGTTGTGGTTGCCGTCAACC

1261 HisLeuAsnSerThrAlaLeuAsnCysAsnAspSerLeuAsnThrGlyTrpLeuAlaGly
CACCTCAATAGCACGGCCCTGAACCTGCAATGATAGCCTCAACACCGGCTGGTTGGCAGGG
GTGGAGTTATCGTGCCGGGACTTGACGTTACTATCGAGTTGTGGCCGACCAACCGTCCC

1321 LeuPheTyrHisHisLysPheAsnSerSerGlyCysProGluArgLeuAlaSerCysArg
CTTTTCTATCACCACAAGTTCAACTCTTCAGGCTGTCTGAGAGGCTAGCCAGCTGCCGA
GAAAGATAGTGGTGTTCAGTTGAGAAGTCCGACAGGACTCTCCGATCGGTCGACGGCT

1381 ProLeuThrAspPheAspGlnGlyTrpGlyProIleSerTyrAlaAsnGlySerGlyPro
CCCCTTACCGATTTTGACAGGGGCTGGGGCCCTATCAGTTATGCCAACGGAAGCGGCCCC
GGGGAATGGCTAAACTGGTCCCACCCCGGATAGTCAATACGGTTGCCTTCGCCGGGG

1441 AspGlnArgProTyrCysTrpHisTyrProProLysProCysGlyIleValProAlaLys
GACCAGCGCCCTACTGCTGGCACTACCCCCAAAACCTTGGGTATTGTGCCCCGGAAG
CTGGTTCGCGGGGATGACGACCGTGATGGGGGTTTGGAAACGCCATAACAGGGGCGCTTC

1501 SerValCysGlyProValTyrCysPheThrProSerProValValValGlyThrThrAsp
AGTGTGTGTGGTCCGGTATATTGCTTCACTCCAGCCCCGTGGTGGTGGGAACGACCGAC
TCACACACACAGGCCATATAACGAAGTGAGGGTGGGGGACCACCAACCTTGCTGGCTG

1561 ArgSerGlyAlaProThrTyrSerTrpGlyGluAsnAspThrAspValPheValLeuAsn
AGGTCCGGGCGCGCCACCTACAGCTGGGGTGAAAATGATACGGACGTCTTCGTCTTAAC
TCCAGCCCCGCGGGGTGGATGTCGACCCACITTTTACTATGCCTGCAGAAGCAGGAATTG

AsnThrArgProProLeuGlyAsnTrpPheGlyCysThrTrpMetAsnSerThrGlyPhe

- 1621 AATACCAGGCCACCGCTGGGCAATTGGTTCGGTTGTACCTGGATGAACTCAACTGGATTCT
TTATGGTCCGGTGGCGACCCGTTAACCAAGCCAACATGGACCTACTTGAGTTGACCTAAG
- 1681 ThrLysValCysGlyAlaProProCysValIleGlyGlyAlaGlyAsnAsnThrLeuHis
ACCAAAGTGTGCGGAGCGCCTCCTTGTGTCATCGGAGGGGCGGGCAACAACACCCTGCAC
TGGTTTCACACGCCTCGCGGAGGAACACAGTAGCCTCCCCGCCCCGTTGTTGTGGGACGTG
- 1741 CysProThrAspCysPheArgLysHisProAspAlaThrTyrSerArgCysGlySerGly
TGCCCCACTGATTGCTTCCGCAAGCATCCGGACGCCACATACTCTCGGTGCGGCTCCGGT
ACGGGGTGACTAACGAAGGCGTTCGTAGGCCTGCGGTGTATGAGAGCCACGCCGAGGCCA
- Ile
- 1801 ProTrpLeuThrProArgCysLeuValAspTyrProTyrArgLeuTrpHisTyrProCys
CCCTGGATCACACCCAGGTGCCCTGGTGCCTACCCGTATAGGCTTTGGCATTATCCTTGT
GGGACCTAGTGTGGGTCCACGGACCACTGTATGGGCATATCCGAAACCGTAATAGGAACA
- 1861 ThrIleAsnTyrThrIlePheLysIleArgMetTyrValGlyGlyValGluHisArgLeu
ACCATCAACTACACCATATTTAAATCAGGATGTACGTGGGAGGGGTGGAACACAGGCTG
TGGTAGTTGATGTGGTATAAATTTAGTCCTACATGCACCCTCCCAGCTTGTGTCCGAC
- 1921 GluAlaAlaCysAsnTrpThrArgGlyGluArgCysAspLeuGluAspArgAspArgSer
GAAGCTGCCTGCAACTGGACGCGGGGCGAACGTTGCGATCTGGAAGACAGGGACAGGTCC
CTTCGACGGACGTTGACCTGCGCCCCGCTTGCAACGCTAGACCTTCTGTCCCTGTCCAGG
- 1981 GluLeuSerProLeuLeuLeuThrThrThrGlnTrpGlnValLeuProCysSerPheThr
GAGCTCAGCCCGTTACTGCTGACCACTACACAGTGGCAGGTCTCTCCCGTGTTCCTTCACA
CTCGAGTCGGGCAATGACGACTGGTGATGTGTACCGTCCAGGAGGGCACAAGGAAGTGT
- 2041 ThrLeuProAlaLeuSerThrGlyLeuIleHisLeuHisGlnAsnIleValAspValGln
ACCCTACCAGCCTTGTCCACCGGCCTCATCCACCTCCACCAGAACATTGTGGACGTGCAG
TGGGATGGTTCGAACAGGTGGCCGGAGTAGGTGGAGGTGGTCTTGTAACACCTGCACGTC
- 2101 TyrLeuTyrGlyValGlySerSerIleAlaSerTrpAlaIleLysTrpGluTyrValVal
TACTTGTACGGGTGGGGTCAAGCATCGCGTCTCTGGGCCATTAAAGTGGGAGTACGTGCTT
ATGAACATGCCCCACCCAGTTCGTAGCGCAGGACCCGTAATTCACCTCATGCAGCAA
- 2161 LeuLeuPheLeuLeuLeuAlaAspAlaArgValCysSerCysLeuTrpMetMetLeuLeu
CTCCTGTTCTTCTGCTTGACAGCGCGCGCTCTGCTCTGCTTGTGGATGATGCTACTC
GAGGACAAGCAAGACGAACGCTCTGCGCGCGCAGACGAGGACGAACACCTACTACGATGAG
- 2221 IleSerGlnAlaGluAlaAlaLeuGluAsnLeuValIleLeuAsnAlaAlaSerLeuAla
ATATCCCAAGCGGAGGCGGCTTTGGAGAACCTCGTAATACTTAATGCAGCATCCCTGGCC
TATAGGGTTCGCCTCCGCCGAAACCTCTTGGAGCATTATGAATTACGTCTAGGGACCGG
- 2281 GlyThrHisGlyLeuValSerPheLeuValPhePheCysPheAlaTrpTyrLeuLysGly
GGGACGCACGGTCTTGTATCCTTCCTCGTGTCTTCTGCTTTGCATGGTATTGAAGGGT
CCCTGCGTGCCAGAACATAGGAAGGAGCACAAGAAGACGAAACGTACCATAAAGCTTCCCA
- 2341 LysTrpValProGlyAlaValTyrThrPheTyrGlyMetTrpProLeuLeuLeuLeuLeu
AAGTGGGTGCCCCGAGCGGTCTACACCTTCTACGGGATGTGGCCTCTCTCTCTGCTCTCTG
TTCACCCACGGGCTCGCCAGATGTGGAAGATGCCCTACACCGGAGAGGAGGACGAGGAC
- 2401 LeuAlaLeuProGlnArgAlaTyrAlaLeuAspThrGluValAlaAlaSerCysGlyGly
TGCGCGTTGCCCCAGCGGGCGTACGCGCTGGACACGGAGGTGGCCGCGTCTGTGTGGCGGT
AACCAGAACGGGTCGCCCCGATGCGCGACCTGTGCCTCCACGGGCGCAGCACACCGCCA
- 2461 ValValLeuValGlyLeuMetAlaLeuThrLeuSerProTyrTyrLysArgTyrIleSer
GTGTTCTCGTCCGGTTGATGGCGCTGACTCTGTACCATATTACAAGCGCTATATCAGC
CAACAAGAGCAGCCCACTACCGCGACTGAGACAGTGGTATAATGTTCCGATATATCTCG
- (Asn)
- 2521 TrpCysLeuTrpTrpLeuGlnTyrPheLeuThrArgValGluAlaGlnLeuHisValTrp
TGGTGTCTGTGGTGGCTTCAGTATTTCTGACCAGAGTGGGAAGCGCAACTGCACGTGTGG
ACCACGAACACCACCGAAGTCATAAAAGACTGGTCTCACCTTCGCGTTGACGTGAAACC
- IleProProLeuAsnValArgGlyGlyArgAspAlaValIleLeuLeuMetCysAlaVal

- 2581 ATTCCCCCCTCAACGTCCGAGGGGGGCGCGACGCGTCATCTTACTCATGTGTGCTGTA
TAAGGGGGGAGTTGCAGGCTCCCCCGCGCTGCGGCAGTAGAATGAGTACACACGACAT
- 2641 HisProThrLeuValPheAspIleThrLysLeuLeuLeuAlaValPheGlyProLeuTrp
CACCCGACTCTGGTATTTGACATCACCAAATTGCTGCTGGCCGTCTTCGGACCCCTTTGG
GTGGGCTGAGACCATAAACTGTAGTGGTTTAACGACGACCGGCAGAACCTGGGGAAACC
- 2701 IleLeuGlnAlaSerLeuLeuLysValProTyrPheValArgValGlnGlyLeuLeuArg
ATTCTTCAAGCCAGTTTGCTTAAAGTACCCTACTTTGTGCGCGTCCAAGGCCTTCTCCGG
TAAGAAGTTCGGTCAAACGAATTCATGGGATGAAACACGCGCAGGTTCCGGAAGAGGCC
- 2761 PheCysAlaLeuAlaArgLysMetIleGlyGlyHisTyrValGlnMetValIleIleLys
TTCTGCGCGTTAGCGCGGAAGATGATCGGAGGCCATTACGTGCAATGGTCATCATTAAAG
AAGACGCGCAATCGCGCCTTCTACTAGCCTCCGGTAATGCACGTTTACCAGTAGTAATTC
- 2821 LeuGlyAlaLeuThrGlyThrTyrValTyrAsnHisLeuThrProLeuArgAspTrpAla
TTAGGGGCGCTTACTGGCACCTATGTTTATAACCATCTCACTCCTCTTCGGGACTGGGCG
AATCCCCGGAATGACCGTGGATACAAATATTGGTAGAGTAGGAGAAGCCCTGACCCCGC
- 2881 HisAsnGlyLeuArgAspLeuAlaValAlaValGluProValValPheSerGlnMetGlu
CACACGGCTTSCGAGATCTGGCCGTGGCTGTAGAGCCAGTCGTCTTCTCCCAAATGGAG
GTGTTGCCGAACGCTCTAGACCGGCACCGACATCTCGGTACGAGAAGAGGGTTTACCTC
- 2941 ThrLysLeuIleThrTrpGlyAlaAspThrAlaAlaCysGlyAspIleIleAsnGlyLeu
ACCAAGCTCATCAGTGGGGGGCAGATACCGCCGCGTGCGGTGACATCATCAACGGCTTG
TGGTTCGAGTAGTGCACCCCCGTCTATGGCGGCGCACGCCACTGTAGTAGTTGCCGAAC
- 3001 ProValSerAlaArgArgGlyArgGluIleLeuLeuGlyProAlaAspGlyMetValSer
CCTGTTTCCGCCCGCAGGGGCGGGAGATACTGCTCGGCCAGCCGATGGAATGCTCTCC
GGACAAAGGCGGGCGTCCCCGGCCCTCTATGACGAGCCCGGTGCGGTACCTTACCAGAGG
- 3061 LysGlyTrpArgLeuLeuAlaProIleThrAlaTyrAlaGlnGlnThrArgGlyLeuLeu
AAGGGGTGGAGGTGCTGGCGCCCATCACGGCGTACGCCAGCAGACAAGGGGCGCTCTTA
TTCCCCACCTCCAACGACCGCGGGTAGTGCCGCATGCGGGTCTGTGTTCCCCGGAGGAT
- 3121 GlyCysIleIleThrSerLeuThrGlyArgAspLysAsnGlnValGluGlyGluValGln
GGGTGCATAATCACCAGCCTAACTGGCCGGGACAAAACCAAGTGGAGGGTGAGGTCCAG
CCCACGTATTAGTGGTGGATTGACCGGCCCTGTTTTTGGTTACCTCCCACTCCAGGTC
- 3181 IleValSerThrAlaAlaGlnThrPheLeuAlaThrCysIleAsnGlyValCysTrpThr
ATTGTGTCAACTGCTGCCCAAACCTTCTGGCAACGTGCATCAATGGGGTGTGCTGGACT
TAACACAGTTGACGACGGGTTTGAAGGACCGTTGCACGTAGTTACCCACACGACCTGA
- 3241 ValTyrHisGlyAlaGlyThrArgThrIleAlaSerProLysGlyProValIleGlnMet
GTCTACACGGGGCCGAACGAGGACCATCGCGTACCCAAAGGGTCTGTCTATCCAGATG
CAGATGGTGGCCCGGCTTGTCTCTGGTAGCGCAGTGGGTTCACAGGACAGTAGGTCTAC
- 3301 TyrThrAsnValAspGlnAspLeuValGlyTrpProAlaProGlnGlySerArgSerLeu
TATACCAATGTAGACCAAGACCTTGTGGGCTGGCCCGCTCCGCAAGGTAGCCGCTCATTG
ATATGGTTACATCTGGTTCTGGAACACCCGACCGGGCGAGGCGTTCCATCGGCGAGTAAC
- 3361 ThrProCysThrCysGlySerSerAspLeuTyrLeuValThrArgHisAlaAspValIle
ACACCTTGCACTTGGCGCTCCTCGGACCTTTACCTGGTACAGAGGCACGCCGATGTCTATT
TGTGGGACGTGAACGCCGAGGAGCCTGGAAATGGACAGTGTCTCGTGCGGCTACAGTAA
- 3421 ProValArgArgArgGlyAspSerArgGlySerLeuLeuSerProArgProIleSerTyr
CCCGTGCGCCGGCGGGGTGATAGCAGGGGCGAGCCTGCTGTGCGCCCCGGCCATTTCCTAC
GGGACGCGGGCGGCCCACTATCGTCCCCGTGCGACGACAGCGGGGCGGGGTAAAGGATG
- 3481 LeuLysGlySerSerGlyGlyProLeuLeuCysProAlaGlyHisAlaValGlyIlePhe
TTGAAAGGCTCCTCGGGGGGTCCGCTGTTGTGCCCCGCGGGGCACGCCGTGGGCATATTT
AACTTTCCGAGGAGCCCCCAGGCGACAACACGGGGCGCCCCGTGCGGCACCCGTATAAA
- 3541 ArgAlaAlaValCysThrArgGlyValAlaLysAlaValAspPheIleProValGluAsn
AGGGCCGCGGTGTGCACCCGTGGAGTGGCTAAGGCGGTGGACTTTATCCCTGTGGAGAAC

- ICCCGGCGCCACACGTGGGCACCTCACCGATTCCGCCACCTGAAATAGGGACACCTCTTG
- 3601 LeuGluThrThrMetArgSerProValPheThrAspAsnSerSerProProValValPro
CTAGAGACAACCATGAGGTCCCCGGTGTTACGGATAACTCCTCTCCACCAGTAGTGCCC
GATCTCTGTTGGTACTCCAGGGGCCACAAGTGCCTATTGAGGAGAGGTGGTCATCACGGG
- 3661 GlnSerPheGlnValAlaHisLeuHisAlaProThrGlySerGlyLysSerThrLysVal
CAGAGCTTCCAGGTGGCTCACCTCCATGCTCCACAGGCAGCGGCAAAAGCACCAAGGTC
GTCTCGAAGGTCCACCGAGTGGAGGTACGAGGGTGTCCGTGCGCGTTTTCTGGTTCCAG
- 3721 ProAlaAlaTyrAlaAlaGlnGlyTyrLysValLeuValLeuAsnProSerValAlaAla
CCGGCTGCATATGCAGCTCAGGGCTATAAGGTGCTAGTACTCAACCCCTCTGTTGCTGCA
GGCCGACGTATACGTGAGTCCCGATATTCACGATCATGAGTTGGGGAGACAACGACGT
- 3781 ThrLeuGlyPheGlyAlaTyrMetSerLysAlaHisGlyIleAspProAsnIleArgThr
ACACTGGGCTTTGGTGCTTACATGTCCAAGGCTCATGGGATCGATCCTAACATCAGGACC
TGTGACCCGAAACCACGAATGTACAGGTTCGAGTACCCTAGCTAGGATTGTAGTCTGG
- 3841 GlyValArgThrIleThrThrGlySerProIleThrTyrSerThrTyrGlyLysPheLeu
GGGGTGAGAACAAATTACCACTGGCAGCCCCATCACGTACTCCACCTACGGCAAGTTCCTT
CCCCACTCTTGTTAATGGTGACCGTCGGGGTAGTGATGAGGTGGATGCCGTTCAAGGAA
- 3901 AlaAspGlyGlyCysSerGlyGlyAlaTyrAspIleIleIleCysAspGluCysHisSer
GCCGACGGCGGGTGCTCGGGGGGCGCTTATGACATAATAATTGTGACGAGTGCCACTCC
CGGCTSCCGCCACGAGCCCCCGGAATACTGTATTATTAAACACTGCTCACGGTGAGG
- (Val)
- 3961 ThrAspAlaThrSerIleLeuGlyIleGlyThrValLeuAspGlnAlaGluThrAlaGly
ACGGATGCCACATCCATCTTGGGCATCGGCACTGTCTTGACCAAGCAGAGACTGCGGGG
TGCTTACGGTGTAGGTAGAACCCGTAGCCGTGACAGGAAGTGGTTCGTCTCTGACGCCCC
- 4021 AlaArgLeuValValLeuAlaThrAlaThrProProGlySerValThrValProHisPro
GCGAGACTGGTGTGCTCGCCACCGCCACCCCTCCGGGCTCCGTCACTGTGCCCCATCCC
CGCTCTGACCAACACGAGCGGTGGCGGTGGGGAGGCCCCGAGGCAGTGACACGGGGTAGGG
- 4081 AsnIleGluGluValAlaLeuSerThrThrGlyGluIleProPheTyrGlyLysAlaIle
AACATCGAGGAGGTGTCTGTGCCACCAGGAGAGATCCCTTTTTACGGCAAGGCTATC
TTGTAGTCTCTCAACGAGACAGGTGGTGGCCTCTCTAGGGAAAAATGCCGTTCCGATAG
- 4141 ProLeuGluValIleLysGlyGlyArgHisLeuIlePheCysHisSerLysLysLysCys
CCCCCGAAGTAATCAAGGGGGGAGACATCTCATCTTGTGTCATTCAAAGAAGAAGTGC
GGGAGCTTCATTAGTTCCCCCCTCTGTAGAGTAGAAGACAGTAAGTTTCTTCTTCACG
- 4201 AspGluLeuAlaAlaLysLeuValAlaLeuGlyIleAsnAlaValAlaTyrTyrArgGly
GACGAAGTCCCGCAAGCTGGTCGCATTTGGGCATCAATGCCSTGGCCTACTACCGCGGT
CTGCTTGAGCGGCGTTTCGACCAGCGTAACCCGTAGTTACGGCACCGGATGATGGCGCCA
- 4261 LeuAspValSerValIleProThrSerGlyAspValValValValAlaThrAspAlaLeu
CTTGACGTGTCCGTATCCCGACCGGCGATGTTGTGCTCTGGCAACCGATGCCCTC
GAACTGCACAGGCAGTAGGGCTGGTCCCGCTACAACAGCAGCACCGTTGGCTACGGGAG
- 4321 MetThrGlyTyrThrGlyAspPheAspSerValIleAspCysAsnThrCysValThrGln
ATGACCGGCTATACCGGCGACTTCGACTCGGTGATAGACTGCAATACGTGTGTACCCAG
TACTGGCCGATATGGCCGCTGAAGCTGAGCCACTATCTGACGTTATGCACACAGTGGGTC
- (Ser)
- 4381 ThrValAspPheSerLeuAspProThrPheThrIleGluThrIleThrLeuProGlnAsp
ACAGTCGATTTTCAGCCTTGACCCTACCTTCACCATGAGACAATCACGCTCCCCCAGGAT
TGTACGCTAAAGTCGGAAGTGGGATGGAAGTGTAAGTCTGTTAGTGGAGGGGGTCTTA
- 4441 AlaValSerArgThrGlnArgArgGlyArgThrGlyArgGlyLysProGlyIleTyrArg
GCTGTCTCCCGCACTCAACGTGCGGGCAGGACTGGCAGGGGGAAGCCAGGCATCTTACAGA
CGACAGAGGGCGTGAGTTGCAGCCCCGTCTGACCGTCCCCCTCGGTCCGTAGATCTCT

4501 PheValAlaProGlyGluArgProSerGlyMetPheAspSerS rValLeuCysGluCys
TTTGTGGCACCAGGGGGAGCGCCCTCCGGCATGTTGCGACTCGTCCGTCTCTGTGAGTGC
AAACACCGTGGCCCCCTCGCGGGGAGGCCGTACAAGCTGAGCAGGCAGGAGACTCACC

4561 TyrAspAlaGlyCysAlaTrpTyrGluLeuThrProAlaGluThrThrValArgLeuArg
TATGACGCAGGCTGTGCTTGGTATGAGCTCACGCCCCGAGACTACAGTTAGGCTACGA
ATACTGCGTCCGACACGAACCATACTCGAGTGGGGGGCTCTGATGTCAATCCGATGCT

4621 AlaTyrMetAsnThrProGlyLeuProValCysGlnAspHisLeuGluPheTrpGluGly
GCGTACATGAACACCCCGGGGCTTCCCGTGTGCCAGGACCATCTTGAATTTTGGGAGGGC
CGCATGTACTTGTGGGGCCCCGAAGGCGACACGGTCTTGGTAGAACTTAAACCCCTCCCC

4681 ValPheThrGlyLeuThrHisIleAspAlaHisPheLeuSerGlnThrLysGlnSerGly
GTCTTTACAGGCCTCACTCATATAGATGCCACTTTCTATCCAGACAAAGCAGAGTGGG
CAGAAATGTCCGGAGTGAGTATATCTACGGGTGAAAGATAGGGTCTGTTTCGTCTCACC

4741 GluAsnLeuProTyrLeuValAlaTyrGlnAlaThrValCysAlaArgAlaGlnAlaPro
GAGAACCTTCTTACCTGGTAGCGTACCAAGCCACCGTGTGCGCTAGGGCTCAAGCCCCCT
CTCTTGAAGGAATGGACCATCGCATGGTTCGGTGGCACACGCGATCCCCGAGTTCCGGGA

4801 ProProSerTrpAspGlnMetTrpLysCysLeuIleArgLeuLysProThrLeuHisGly
CCCCATCGTGGGACCAGATGTGGAAGTGTGTTGATTCGCTCAAGCCCACCCTCCATGGG
GGGGGTAGCACCCCTGGTCTACACCTTCAAACTAAGCGGAGTTCGGGTGGGAGGTACCC

4861 ProThrProLeuLeuTyrArgLeuGlyAlaValGlnAsnGluIleThrLeuThrHisPro
CCAACACCCCTGCTATACAGACTGGGCGCTGTTTCAAGATGAAATCACCCCTGACGCACCCA
GGTGTGGGGACGATATGTCTGACCCGCGACAAGTCTTACTTTAGTGGGACTGCGTGGGT

4921 ValThrLysTyrIleMetThrCysMetSerAlaAspLeuGluValValThrSerThrTrp
GTCACCAATACATCATGACATGCATGTCGGCCGACCTGGAGGTGCTCACGAGCACCTGG
CAGTGGTTTATGTAGTACTGTACGTACAGCCGGCTGGACCTCCAGCAGTGCTCGTGGACC

4981 ValLeuValGlyGlyValLeuAlaAlaLeuAlaAlaTyrCysLeuSerThrGlyCysVal
GTGCTCGTTGGCGGCGTCTGGCTGCTTTGGCCGCGTATGCGCTGTCAACAGGCTGCGTG
CAGGAGCAACCGCCGAGGACCGACGAAACCGCGCATACCGACAGTTGTCCGACGAC

5041 ValIleValGlyArgValValLeuSerGlyLysProAlaIleIleProAspArgGluVal
GTCATAGTGGGCAGGGTCTGTTGTCCGGGAAGCCGCAATCATACCTGACAGGGAAGTC
CAGTATCACCCGTCCCAGCAGAACAGGCCCTTCGGCCGTTAGTATGGACTGTCCCTTCAG

5101 LeuTyrArgGluPheAspGluMetGluGluCysSerGlnHisLeuProTyrIleGluGln
CTCTACCGAGAGTTCGATGAGATGGAAGAGTCTCTCAGCACTTACCGTACATCGAGCAA
GAGATGGCTCTCAAGCTACTCTACCTTCTCAGAGAGTCTGTAATGGCATGTAGCTCGTT

5161 GlyMetMetLeuAlaGluGlnPheLysGlnLysAlaLeuGlyLeuLeuGlnThrAlaSer
GGGATGATGCTCGCCGAGCAGTTCAAGCAGAAGCCCTCGGCCTCTGCAGACCCGCTCC
CCCTACTACGAGCGGCTCGTCAAGTTCGTCTCCGGGAGCCGGAGGACGTCTGCGCAGG

5221 ArgGlnAlaGluValIleAlaProAlaValGlnThrAsnTrpGlnLysLeuGluThrPhe
CGTCAGGCAGAGGTTATCGCCCTGCTGTCCAGACCAACTGGCAAAACTCGAGACCTTC
GCAGTCCGCTCTCAATAGCGGGGACGACAGGTCTGGTTGACCGTTTTTGAGCTCTGGAAG

5281 TrpAlaLysHisMetTrpAsnPheIleSerGlyIleGlnTyrLeuAlaGlyLeuSerThr
TGGGCGAAGCATATGTGGAACCTTCATCAGTGGGATACAATACTTGGCGGGCTGTCAACG
ACCCGCTTCGTATACACCTTGAAGTAGTCACCCATGTTATGAACCGCCCGAACAGTTGC

5341 LeuProGlyAsnProAlaIleAlaSerLeuMetAlaPheThrAlaAlaValThrSerPro
CTGCCTGGTAACCCCGCCATTGCTTCATTGATGGCTTTTACAGCTGCTGTACCAGCCCA
GACGGACCATTTGGGGCGGTAACGAAGTAACCTACCGAAAATGTCACGACAGTGGTGGGT

5401 LeuThrThrSerGlnThrLeuLeuPheAsnIleLeuGlyGlyTrpValAlaAlaGlnLeu
CTAACCACTAGCCAAACCCCTCTCTCAACATATTGGGGGGGTGGGTGGCTGCCAGCTC
GATTGGTGATCGGTTTGGGAGGAGAAGTTGTATAACCCCCCACCACCGAGGGTCCAG

5461 AlaAlaProGlyAlaAlaThrAlaPheValGlyAlaGlyLeuAlaGlyAlaAlaIleGly
GCGGCCCCGCTGCGCTACTGCTTTGTGGGCGCTGGCTTAGCTGGCGCCGCCATCGGC

CGGCGGGGGCCACGGCGATGACGGAAACACCCGCGACCGAATCGACCGGGCGGTAGCCG

5521 SerValGlyLeuGlyLysValLeuIleAspIleLeuAlaGlyTyrGlyAlaGlyValAla
AGTGTGGACTGGGAAGGTCCTCATAGACATCCTTGCAGGGTATGGCGGGGCGTGGCG
TCACAACCTGACCCCTTCCAGGAGTATCTGTAGGAACGTCCCATACCGCGCCCGCACGCG

(Gly)

5581 GlyAlaLeuValAlaPheLysIleMetSerGlyGluValProSerThrGluAspLeuVal
GGAGCTCTTGTGGCATTCAAGATCATGAGCGGTGAGGTCCCCTCCACGGAGGACCTGGTC
CCTCGAGAACACCGTAAGTTCTAGTACTCGCCACTCCAGGGGAGGTGCCTCCTGGACCAG

5641 AsnLeuLeuProAlaIleLeuSerProGlyAlaLeuValValGlyValValCysAlaAla
AATCTACTGCCCCCATCCTCTCGCCCGGAGCCCTCGTAGTCGGCGTGGTCTGTGCAGCA
TTAGATGACGGGCGGTAGGAGAGCGGGCCTCGGGAGCATCAGCCGCACCAGACACGTCTGT

5701 IleLeuArgArgHisValGlyProGlyGluGlyAlaValGlnTrpMetAsnArgLeuIle
AIACTGCGCCGGCACGTTGGCCCGGGGAGGGGGCAGTGCAGTGGATGAACCGGCTGATA
TATGACGCGGCGGTGCAACCGGGCCGCTCCCCCGTCACGTCACCTACTTGGCCGACTAT

5761 AlaPheAlaSerArgGlyAsnHisValSerProThrHisTyrValProGluSerAspAla
GCCTTCGCTCCCGGGGAACCATGTTTCCCCCAAGCACTACGTGCCGGAGAGCGATGCA
CGAAGCGGAGGGCCCCCTTGGTACAAAGGGGGTGGTGTATGCACGGCCTCTCGCTACGT

(HisCys)

5821 AlaAlaArgValThrAlaIleLeuSerSerLeuThrValThrGlnLeuLeuArgArgLeu
GCTGCCCGCGTCACTGCCATACTCAGCAGCCTCACTGTAACCCAGCTCCTGAGGCGACTG
CGACGGGCGCAGTGACGGTATGAGTCTGCGAGTGACATTGGGTGAGGACTCCGCTGAC

5881 HisGlnTrpIleSerSerGluCysThrThrProCysSerGlySerTrpLeuArgAspIle
CACCAGTGGATAAGCTCGGAGTGTACCACTCCATGCTCCGGTCTCTGGCTAAGGGACATC
GTGGTCACTATTTCGAGCCTCACATGGTGAGGTACGAGGCCAAGGACCGATTCCCTGTAG

5941 TrpAspTrpIleCysGluValLeuSerAspPheLysThrTrpLeuLysAlaLysLeuMet
TGGGACTGGATATGCGAGGTGTGAGCGACTTTAAGACCTGGCTAAAAGCTAAGCTCATG
ACCCTGACCTATACGCTCCCAACTCGCTGAAATTCTGGACCGATTTCGATTTCGAGTAC

6001 ProGlnLeuProGlyIleProPheValSerCysGlnArgGlyTyrLysGlyValTrpArg
CCACAGCTGCCTGGGATCCCTTTGTGTCTGCCAGCGCGGTATAAGGGGGTCTGGCGA
GGTGTGACGGACCCTAGGGGAAACACAGGACGGTTCGCGCCCATATTCCCCCAGACCGCT

(Val)

6061 GlyAspGlyIleMetHisThrArgCysHisCysGlyAlaGluIleThrGlyHisValLys
GTGGACGGCATCATGCACACTCGCTGCCACTGTGGAGCTGAGATCACTGGACATGTCAA
CACCTGCCGTAGTACGTGTGAGCGACGGTGACACCTCGACTCTAGTGACCTGTACAGTTT

6121 AsnGlyThrMetArgIleValGlyProArgThrCysArgAsnMetTrpSerGlyThrPhe
AACGGGACGATCAGGATCGTCGGTCTTAGGACCTGCAGGAACATGTGGAGTGGGACCTTC
TTGCCCTGCTACTCTAGCAGCCAGGATCCTGGACGTCTTGTACACCTCACCTGGAAG

6181 ProIleAsnAlaTyrThrThrGlyProCysThrProLeuProAlaProAsnTyrThrPhe
CCCATTAAATGCCCTACACCACGGGCCCCCTGTACCCCCCTTCTGCGCCGAACACAGTTC
GGGTAAATTACGGATGTGGTGCCCGGGGACATGGGGGAAGGACGGGCTTGATGTCAAG

6241 AlaLeuTrpArgValSerAlaGluGluTyrValGluIleArgGlnValGlyAspPheHis
GCGCTATGGAGGGTGTCTGCAGAGGAATATGTGGAGATAAGGCAGGTGGGGGACTTCCAC
CGCGATACCTCCACAGACGTCTCCTTATACACCTCTATTCCGTCCACCCCTGAAGGTG

6301 TyrValThrGlyMetThrThrAspAsnLeuLysCysProCysGlnValProSerProGlu
TACGTGACGGGTATGACTACTGACAATCTCAATGCCCCGTGCCAGGTCCCATCGCCCGAA
ATGCACTGCCCATACTGATGACTGTTAGAGTTTACGGGCACGGTCCAGGGTAGCGGGCTT

6361 PhePheThrGluLeuAspGlyValArgLeuHisArgPheAlaProProCysLysProLeu
TTTTTCAGAAATTGGACGGGGTGGCCCTACATAGGTTTGGCCCCCTGCAAGCCCTTC
AAAAGTGTCTTAACCTGCCCCACGGGATGTATCCAAACGCGGGGGGACGTTGGGAAC

LeuArgGluGluValSerPheArgValGlyLeuHisGluTyrProValGlySerGlnLeu

6421 CTGCGGGAGGAGGTATCATTAGAGTAGGACTCCACGAATACCCGGTAGGGTCGCAATTA
GACGCCCTCCTCCATAGTAAGTCTCATCTGAGGTGCTTATGGGCCATCCCAGCGTTAAT

6481 ProCysGluProGluProAspValAlaValLeuThrSerMetLeuThrAspProSerHis
CCTTGCGAGCCCGAACCGGACGTGGCCGTGTTGACGTCCATGCTCACTGATCCCTCCCAT
GGAACGCTCGGGCTTGGCTGCACCGGCACAACCTGCAGGTACGAGTGACTAGGGAGGGTA

6541 IleThrAlaGluAlaAlaGlyArgArgLeuAlaArgGlySerProProSerValAlaSer
ATAACAGCAGAGGGCGGCGGGCGAAGGTTGGCGAGGGGATCACCCCTCTGTGGCCAGC
TATTGTCGTCTCCGCCGGCCGCTTCCAACCGCTCCCTAGTGGGGGGAGACACCGGTGC

6601 SerSerAlaSerGlnLeuSerAlaProSerLeuLysAlaThrCysThrAlaAsnHisAsp
TCCTCGGCTAGCCAGCTATCCGCTCCATCTCTCAAGGCAACTGCACCGCTAACCATGAC
AGGAGCCGATCGGTGATAGGCGAGGTAGAGAGTTCCTTGAACGTGGCGATTGGTACTG

6661 SerProAspAlaGluLeuIleGluAlaAsnLeuLeuTrpArgGlnGluMetGlyGlyAsn
TCCCTGATGCTGAGCTCATAGAGGCCAACCTCCTATGGAGGCAGGAGATGGGCGGCAC
AGGGGACTACGACTCGAGTATCTCCGGTTGGAGGATACCTCCGTCTCTACCGCGCTTG

6721 IleThrArgValGluSerGluAsnLysValValIleLeuAspSerPheAspProLeuVal
ATCACCAGGGTTGAGTCAGAAACAAAGTGGTGATTCTGGACTCCTTCGATCCGCTTG
TAGTGGTCCCAACTCAGTCTTTTGTTCACCACTAAGACCTGAGGAAGCTAGGCGAACAC

6781 AlaGluGluAspGluArgGluIleSerValProAlaGluIleLeuArgLysSerArgArg
GCGGAGGAGGACGAGCGGGAGATCTCCGTACCCGCAGAAATCTGCGGAAGTCTCGGAGA
CGCTCCTCTCGCTCGCCCTCTAGAGGCATGGGCGTCTTTAGGACGCCTTCAGAGCCTCT

6841 PheAlaGlnAlaLeuProValTrpAlaArgProAspTyrAsnProProLeuValGluThr
TTCGCCCAGGCCCTGCCGTTTGGGCGCGGCCGACTATAACCCCGCTAGTGGAGACG
AAGCGGGTCCGGGACGGGCAACCCCGCCGGCCTGATATTGGGGGCGATCACCTCTGC

6901 TrpLysLysProAspTyrGluProProValValHisGlyCysProLeuProProProLys
TGGAAAAGCCCGACTACGAACCACCTGTGGTCCATGGCTGTCCGCTTCCACCTCAAAG
ACCTTTTTTGGGCTGATGCTTGGTGGACACCAGGTACCGACAGGCGAAGGTGGAGGTTTC

6961 SerProProValProProProArgLysLysArgThrValValLeuThrGluSerThrLeu
TCCCTCCTGTGCCTCCGCCTCGGAAGAAGCGGACGGTGGTCCCTCACTGAATCAACCTA
AGGGGAGGACACGGAGGCGGAGCCTTCTTCGCTGCCACCAGGAGTGACTTAGTTGGGAT

(Ser)

7021 SerThrAlaLeuAlaGluLeuAlaThrArgSerPheGlySerSerSerThrSerGlyIle
TCTACTGCCTTGGCCGAGCTCGCCACCAGAAGCTTTGGCAGCTCCTCAACTTCCGGCATT
AGATGACGGAACCGGCTCGAGCGGTGGTCTTCGAAACCGTCGAGGAGTTGAGGCGGTAA

7081 ThrGlyAspAsnThrThrThrSerSerGluProAlaProSerGlyCysProProAspSer
ACGGGCGACAAATACGACAACATCCTCTGAGCCCGCCCTTCTGGCTGCCCCCGACTCC
TGCCCGCTGTTATGCTGTTGTAGGAGACTCGGGCGGGGAAGACCGACGGGGGGCTGAGG

(PheAla)

7141 AspAlaGluSerTyrSerSerMetProProLeuGluGlyGluProGlyAspProAspLeu
GACGCTGAGTCCTATTCTCCATGCCCCCTGGAGGGGGAGCCTGGGGATCCGGATCTT
CTGCGACTCAGGATAAGGAGGTACGGGGGGACCTCCCCCTCGGACCCCTAGGCCTAGAA

7201 SerAspGlySerTrpSerThrValSerSerGluAlaAsnAlaGluAspValValCysCys
AGCGACGGGTCATGGTCAACGGTCAGTAGTGAGGCCAACGCGGAGGATGTGCTGTCTG
TCGCTGCCAGTACCAGTTGCCAGTCATCACTCCGTTGCGCCTCCTACAGCACACGACG

7261 SerMetSerTyrSerTrpThrGlyAlaLeuValThrProCysAlaAlaGluGluGlnLys
TCAATGTCTTACTCTTGGACAGGCGCACTCGTCACCCCGTGGCGCGGGAAGAAGAGAAA
AGTTACAGAAATGAGAACCTGTCCGCGTGAGCAGTGGGGCACGCGGCGCCTTCTTGTCTTT

7321 LeuProIleAsnAlaLeuSerAsnSerLeuLeuArgHisHisAsnLeuValTyrSerThr
CTGCCCATCAATGCACTAAGCAACTCGTTGCTACGTCACCACAATTTGGTGTATTCCACC
GACGGGTAGTTACGTGATTGCTTGAGCAACGATGCAGTGGTGTAAACCACATAAGGTGG

ThrSerArgSerAlaCysGlnArgGlnLysLysValThrPheAspArgLeuGlnValLeu

- 7381 ACCTCAGCAGTGCTTGCCAAAGGCAGAAGAAAGTCACATTTGACAGACTGCAAGTTCTG
TGGAGTGGCTCACGAACGGTTTCCGTCTTCTTCAGTGTAAGTGTCTGACGTTCAAGAC
- 7441 AspSerHisTyrGlnAspValLeuLysGluValLysAlaAlaAlaSerLysValLysAla
GACAGCCATTACCAGGACGTACTCAAGGAGGTTAAAGCAGCGGCGTCAAAGTGAAGGCT
CTGTCCGTAATGGTCTGCATGAGTTCCTCCAATTCGTGCGCCGAGTTTTCACATTCCGA
(Phe)
- 7501 AsnLeuLeuSerValGluGluAlaCysSerLeuThrProProHisSerAlaLysSerLys
AACTTGCTATCCGTAGAGGAAGCTTGACGCTGACGCCCCCAGCTCAGCCAAATCCAAG
TTGAACGATAGGCATCTCCTTCGAACGTGCGACTGCGGGGGTGTGAGTGGTTAGGTTT
- 7561 PheGlyTyrGlyAlaLysAspValArgCysHisAlaArgLysAlaValThrHisIleAsn
TTTGGTTATGGGGCAAAGACGTCCGTGCGCATGCCAGAAAGGCGTAACCCCATCAAC
AAACCAATACCCCGTTTCTGTCAGGCAACGCTACGGTCTTTCGGGCATTGGGGTGTAGTTG
- 7621 SerValTrpLysAspLeuLeuGluAspAsnValThrProIleAspThrThrIleMetAla
TCCGTGTGGAAGACCTTCTGGAAGACAATGTAACACCAATAGACACTACCATCATGGCT
AGGCACACCTTCTGGAAGACCTTCTGTTACATTGTGGTTATCTGTGATGGTAGTACCGA
- 7681 LysAsnGluValPheCysValGlnProGluLysGlyGlyArgLysProAlaArgLeuIle
AAGAACGAGGTTTCTGCGTTTCAGCCTGAGAAGGGGGTCTGTAAGCCAGCTCGTCTCATC
TTCTTGCTCCAAAAGACGCAAGTCGGACTCTTCCCCCAGCATTGGTTCGAGCAGAGTAG
- 7741 ValPheProAspLeuGlyValArgValCysGluLysMetAlaLeuTyrAspValValThr
GTGTTCCCGATCTGGGCGTGGCGGTGTCGAAAAGATGGCTTTGTACGACGTGGTTACA
CACRAGGGGCTAGACCCGCACGCGCACAGCTTTTCTACCGAAACATGCTGCACCAATGT
- 7801 LysLeuProLeuAlaValMetGlySerSerTyrGlyPheGlnTyrSerProGlyGlnArg
AAGCTCCCTTGGCCGTGATGGGAAGCTCCTACGGATTCCAATACTCACCAGGACAGCGG
TTCGAGGGGAACCGGCACTACCTTCGAGGATGCCTAAGGTTATGAGTGGTCTGTGCGC
- 7861 ValGluPheLeuValGlnAlaTrpLysSerLysLysThrProMetGlyPheSerTyrAsp
GTGGAATTCCTCGTGCAAGCGTGGAAAGTCCAAGAAAACCCCAATGGGGTTCTCGTATGAT
CAACTTAAGGAGCACGTTCCACCTTCAGGTTCTTTTGGGGTTACCCCAAGAGCATACTA
- 7921 ThrArgCysPheAspSerThrValThrGluSerAspIleArgThrGluGluAlaIleTyr
ACCCGCTGCTTTGACTCCACAGTCACTGAGAGCGACATCCGTACGGAGGAGGCAATCTAC
TGGGCGACGAACTGAGGTGTCACTGACTCTCGTGTAGGCATGCCTCCTCCGTTAGATG
- 7981 GlnCysCysAspLeuAspProGlnAlaArgValAlaIleLysSerLeuThrGluArgLeu
CAATGTTGTGACCTCGACCCCCAAGCCCGCTGGCCATCAAGTCCCTCACCAGAGGCGTT
GTTACAACACTGGAGCTGGGGGTTGGGGCGACCGGTAGTTCAGGGAGTGGCTCTCCGAA
- (Gly)
- 8041 TyrValGlyGlyProLeuThrAsnSerArgGlyGluAsnCysGlyTyrArgArgCysArg
TATGTTGGGGCCCTCTTACCAATTCAGGGGGGAGAACTGCGGCTATCGCAGGTGCCGC
ATACAACCCCGGAGAAATGGTTAAGTTCCCCCTCTTGACGCCGATAGCGTCCACGGCG
- 8101 AlaSerGlyValLeuThrThrSerCysGlyAsnThrLeuThrCysTyrIleLysAlaArg
GCGAGCGGCGTACTGACAACTAGCTGTGCTAACACCCTCACTTGCTACATCAAGGCCCGG
CGTCCGCGCATGACTGTTGATCGACACCATGTGTTGGGAGTGAACGATGTAGTTCCGGGGC
- 8161 AlaAlaCysArgAlaAlaGlyLeuGlnAspCysThrMetLeuValCysGlyAspAspLeu
GCAGCCTGTGCGAGCCGCGAGGGCTCCAGGACTGCACCATGCTCGTGTGTTGGCGAGCTTA
CGTCGGACAGCTCGGCGTCCCGAGGTCTGACGTGGTACGAGCACACACCGCTGCTGAAT
- 8221 ValValIleCysGluSerAlaGlyValGlnGluAspAlaAlaSerLeuArgAlaPheThr
GTCGTTATCTGTGAAAGCGCGGGGTCCAGGAGGACGCGCGAGCCTGAGAGCCTTCACG
CAGCAATAGACACTTTCGCGCCCCCAGGTCCTCTGCGCCGCTCGGACTCTCGGAAGTGC
- 8281 GluAlaMetThrArgTyrSerAlaProProGlyAspProProGlnProGluTyrAspLeu
GAGGCTATGACCGAGTACTCCGCCCCCCTGGGGACCCCCACAACCAGAATACGACTTG
CTCCGATACTGGTCCATGAGCGGGGGGGACCCCTGGGGGGTGTGGTCTTATGCTGAAC
GluLeuIleThrSerCysSerSerAsnValSerValAlaHisAspGlyAlaGlyLysArg

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- 8341 GAGCTCATAACATCATGCTCCTCCAACGTGTCAGTCGCCCCACGACGGCGCTGAAAGAGG
CTCGAGTATTGTAGTACGAGGAGGTTGCACAGTCAGCGGGTGCTGCCGCGACCTTTCTCC
- 8401 ValTyrTyrLeuThrArgAspProThrThrProLeuAlaArgAlaAlaTrpGluThrAla
GTCTACTACCTCACCCTGACCCTACAACCCCTCGCGAGAGCTCGTGGGAGACAGCA
CAGATGATGGAGTGGGCACTGGGATGTTGGGGGAGCGCTCTCGACGCACCTCTGTCTG
- 8461 ArgHisThrProValAsnSerTrpLeuGlyAsnIleIleMetPheAlaProThrLeuTrp
AGACACACTCCAGTCAATTCCTGGCTAGGCAACATAATCATGTTTCCCCACACTGTGG
TCTGTGTAGGTCAGTTAAGGACCGATCCGTTGTATTAGTACAAACGGGGGTGTGACACC
- 8521 AlaArgMetIleLeuMetThrHisPhePheSerValLeuIleAlaArgAspGlnLeuGlu
GCGAGGATGATACTGATGACCCATTCTTTAGCGTCTTATAGCCAGGGACCAGCTTGAA
CGTCTCTACTATGACTACTGGGTAAAGAAATCGCAGGAATATCGGTCCCTGGTGAACCTT
- 8581 GlnAlaLeuAspCysGluIleTyrGlyAlaCysTyrSerIleGluProLeuAspLeuPro
CAGGCCCTCGATTGCGAGATCTACGGGGCTGCTACTCCATAGAACCAGTTGATCTACCT
GTCCGGGAGCTAACGCTCTAGATGCCCCGACGATGAGGTATCTTGGTGAACCTAGATGGA
- 8641 ProIleIleGlnArgLeuHisGlyLeuSerAlaPheSerLeuHisSerTyrSerProGly
CCAATCATTCAAAGACTCCATGGCCTCAGCGCATTTTCACTCCACAGTTACTCTCCAGGT
GGTAGTAAGTTTCTGAGGTACCGGAGTCGCGTAAAGTGAGGTGTCAATGAGAGGTCCA
- 8701 GluIleAsnArgValAlaAlaCysLeuArgLysLeuGlyValProProLeuArgAlaTrp
GAAATTAATAGGGTGGCCCATGCCTCAGAAAACCTGGGGTACCGCCCTTGCGAGCTTGG
CTTTAATTATCCACCGCGTACGGAGTCTTTTGAACCCCATGGCGGGAACGCTCGAACC
- Gly
- 8761 ArgHisArgAlaArgSerValArgAlaArgLeuLeuAlaArgGlyGlyArgAlaAlaIle
AGACACCGGGCCCGAGCGTCCGCGCTAGGCTTCTGGCCAGAGGAGGCAGGGCTGCCATA
TCTGTGGCCCGGGCCTCGCAGGCGCGATCCGAAGACCGGTCTCCTCCGTCCCGACGGTAT
- 8821 CysGlyLysTyrLeuPheAsnTrpAlaValArgThrLysLeuLysLeuThrProIleAla
TGTGGCAAGTACCTCTTCAACTGGGCAGTAAGAACAAAGCTCAAACCTCACTCCAATAGCG
ACACCGTTCATGGAGAAGTTGACCCGTCATTCTTGTTCGAGTTTGAGTGAGGTATCGC
- 8881 AlaAlaGlyGlnLeuAspLeuSerGlyTrpPheThrAlaGlyTyrSerGlyGlyAspIle
GCCGCTGGCCAGCTGGACTTGTCCGGCTGGTTCACGGCTGGCTACAGCGGGGAGACATT
CGCGACCGGTGACCTGAACAGGCCGACCAAGTGCCGACCGATGTGCCCCCTCTGTAA
- 8941 TyrHisSerValSerHisAlaArgProArgTrpIleTrpPheCysLeuLeuLeuAla
(Pro) -
TATCAGCGTGTCTCATGCCCCGCCCCGCTGGATCTGGTTTTGCCTACTCTGCTTGCT
ATAGTGTGCGACAGAGTACGGGCCGGGGCGACCTAGACCAAACGGATGAGGACGAACGA
- 9001 AlaGlyValGlyIleTyrLeuLeuProAsnArgOP
GCAGGGGTAGGCATCTACCTCTCCCAACCGATGAAGGTTGGGGTAAACACTCCGGCCT
CGTCCCATCCGTAGATGGAGGAGGGGTTGGCTACTTCCACCCCATTTGTGAGGCCGGA

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HCV-1	1	MetSerThrAsnProLysProGlnLysLysAsnLysArgAsnThrAsnArgArgProGln
HCT18	1	atgagcacgaatcctaaccctcaaaaaaaaaaacaacgtaacaccaaccgctcgccacag
Th		-----g-----c-----
HCV JH		-----g-----c-----
HC-J1		-----a-----c-----g-----c-----
HC-J4		-----t-----c-----g-----c-----
		-----g-----c-----c-----
HCV-1	21	AspValLysPheProGlyGlyGlyGlnIleValGlyGlyValTyrLeuLeuProArgArg
HCT18	51	gacgtcaagttcccggtggtcggtcagatcggttggtggagtttacttggtgccgcgcagg
Th		-----
HCV JH		-----t-----c-----t-----c-----
HC-J1		-----
HC-J4		-----c-----t-----c-----
HCV-1	61	GlyProArgLeuGlyValArgAlaThrArgLysThrSerGluArgSerGlnProArgGly
HCT18	121	ggccctagattgggtgtgcgcgcgacgagaaagacttccgagcggtcgcaacctcgaggt
Th		-----c-----g-----g-----c-----
HCV JH		-----c-----g-----t-----t-----g-----t-----a-----
HC-J1		-----c-----g-----g-----g-----t-----a-----
HC-J4		-----c-----g-----t-----g-----t-----a-----
HCV-1	61	ArgArgGlnProIleProLysAlaArgArgProGluGlyArgThrTrpAlaGlnProGly
HCT18	181	agacgtcagcctatccccaaggctcgtcgccccgagggcaggacctgggctcagcccggt
Th		-----g-----a-----t-----
HCV JH		-----g-----a-----a-----c-----t-----
HC-J1		-----t-----g-----
HC-J4		-----t-----g-----a-----a-----c-----a-----g-----
HCV-1	81	TyrProTrpProLeuTyrGlyAsnGluGlyCysGlyTrpAlaGlyTrpLeuLeuSerPro
HCT18	241	tacccttggccctctatggcaatgagggctgcggttggtggcggtatggctcctgtctccc
Th		-----t-----t-----
HCV JH		-----t-----tg-----a-----a-----
HC-J1		-----tg-----a-----a-----
HC-J4		-----tg-----a-----a-----
HCV-1	101	ArgGlySerArgProSerTrpGlyProThrAspProArgArgArgSerArgAsnLeuGly
HCT18	301	cgtaggctctcgccctagctggggcccccacagacccccggcgtaggtcgcgcaatttggt
Th		-----t-----c-----
HCV JH		-----c-----t-----at-----t-----
HC-J1		-----c-----t-----g-----
HC-J4		-----c-----c-----t-----g-----t-----c-----
HCV-1	121	LysValIleAspThrLeuThrCysGlyPheAlaAspLeuMetGlyTyrIleProLeuVal
HCT18	361	aaggtcatcgatacccttacgtgctggttcgcccacctcatggggtacataccgctcgtc
Th		-----t-----
HCV JH		-----a-----t-----
HC-J1		-----c-----
HC-J4		-----a-----t-----t-----t-----
HCV-1	141	GlyAlaProLeuGlyGlyAlaAlaArgAlaLeuAlaHisGlyValArgValLeuGluAsp
HCT18	421	ggcgccctctctggaggcgctgccaggccctggcgcatggcggtccgggtcttgggaagac
Th		-----g-----
HCV JH		-----ct-----a-----g-----a-----t-----g-----
HC-J1		-----c-----a-----g-----t-----a-----c-----t-----g-----
HC-J4		-----c-----a-----g-----t-----a-----c-----t-----g-----


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161 GlyValAsnTyrAlaThrGlyAsnLeuProGlyCysSerPheSerIlePheLeuLeuAla
HCV-1 481 ggcgatgaactatgcaacaggggaaccttcctggttgctctttctctatcttccttctggcc
HCT18 -----
Th -----c-----
HCV JH -----tt-g-c-----ct--t
HC-J1 -----
HC-J4 -----t-g-c-----ct--t

181 LeuLeuSerCysLeuThrValProAlaSer 190
HCV-1 541 ctgctccttgcttgactgtgccgcttcg 571
HCT18 -----c-----a
Th -----tc-----c-----a
HCV JH -----g-c-t-----ca-c-a-----c
HC-J1 -----c-----a
HC-J4 t-----g-c-t-----ca-c-a-----c

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Probes for Hepatitis C Virus

:42.LLA2C.44
GGTGTTACGTTTGKTTTTTYYTTTGRGGTTTTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.45
RCCCGGGAACCTTRACGTCCTGTGGGCGRCGTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.46
CAACARGTAAACTCCACCRACGATCTGACCTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.47
CGCRGCGCACCCCAAYCTRGGGCCCCCTGCGTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.48
WCGAGGTTGCGACCGCTCGGAAGTCTTYCTTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.49
CCCCGGCTGAGCCCAGGYCCYGCCCTCGGRTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.50
MARCCCTCATTGCCATAGAGGGGCCAAGGRTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.51
CCRCGGCGWACAGGAGCCATCCYGCCCACTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.52
ACCCAARTTRCGCGACCTRCGCCGGGGGTCTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.53
GGCGAAGCCGAYGTRAGGGTATCGATGACTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.54
GGCGCCGACGAGCGGWATRTACCCCATGAGTTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

:42.LLA2C.55
CACGCCGTCYTCCAGAACCCGGACMCCRTGTAGGCATAGGACCCGTGTC

IUB GROUP CODES

B = G,T,C
D = G,A,T
H = A,T,C
K = G,T
M = A,C
N = G,A,T,C

R = A,G
S = G,C
V = G,A,C
W = A,T
Y = C,T

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<u>Probe Type</u>	<u>Probe Number</u>	<u>Complement of Nucleotide Numbers</u>
Label	42.LLA2C.44	16 to 45
Label	42.LLA2C.45	49 to 78
Label	42.LLA2C.46	82 to 111
Label	42.LLA2C.47	115 to 144
Label	42.LLA2C.48	148 to 177
Label	42.LLA2C.49	211 to 240
Label	42.LLA2C.50	242 to 271
Label	42.LLA2C.51	275 to 304
Label	42.LLA2C.52	332 to 361
Label	42.LLA2C.53	365 to 394
Label	42.LLA2C.54	398 to 427
Label	42.LLA2C.55	457 to 486

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/US91/05728

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (if several classification symbols apply, indicate all) ⁶		
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC IPC(5): C 12Q 1/70 U.S. Cl.: 435/5		
II. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum Documentation Searched ⁷		
Classification System	Classification Symbols	
U.S. Cl.	435/5	
Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched ⁸		
Automated Patent Search Dialog		
III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT ⁹		
Category ⁹	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
Y	US, A, 4,683,195 (Mullis et al.) 28 July 1987, see entire document.	1-6
Y, P	WO, A, 90/09457 (Biogen) 23 August 1990, see the abstract.	1-6
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>¹⁰ Special categories of cited documents:</p> <p>"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance</p> <p>"E" earlier document but published on or after the international filing date</p> <p>"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)</p> <p>"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means</p> <p>"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed</p> </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> <p>"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention</p> <p>"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step</p> <p>"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.</p> <p>"&" document member of the same patent family</p> </div> </div>		
IV. CERTIFICATION		
Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search	Date of Mailing of this International Search Report	
07 November 1991	16 DEC 1991	
International Searching Authority	Signature of Authorized Person	
ISA/US	Bradley L. Sisson	

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET

Y	Journal of the Catholic Medical College, Vol. 43., No. 2, issued 1990, Park et al., "Detection of Serum HBV DNA in Sporadic Non-A Non-B Hepatitis by using a Novel Double Polymerase Chain Reaction", pages 469-484, see the abstract.	1-6
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V. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE CERTAIN CLAIMS WERE FOUND UNSEARCHABLE¹

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2) (a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they relate to subject matter¹² not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out¹³, specifically:

3. ☐ Claim numbers _____, because they are dependent claims not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of PCT Rule 6.4(a).

VI. ☐ OBSERVATIONS WHERE UNITY OF INVENTION IS LACKING¹

This international Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims of the international application.
2. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims of the international application for which fees were paid, specifically claims:

3. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claim numbers:

4. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, the International Searching Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.